

Hafa Adai!

'Flame Tree Arts Festival is just postponed, not cancelled' **PAGE 2**

Falling fuel prices result in lower FAC this April. **PAGE 3**

\$1

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## Former MSA employees given option to relocate

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
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REPORTER

The weekend closure of Marianas Southern Airways has left dozens of CNMI locals displaced. Southern Airways, the operating partner

of MSA based off of Hawaii, has given these individuals an opportunity to relocate, though.

See MSA on Page 4



Rios Jr.

Magofna

## After Manila, Magofna off to Calif. for another gaming convention

» Sources: Acting Commerce chief Rios resigned, but later rescinded his resignation

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

After attending the ASEAN Gaming Summit in Manila last March 21-23, Senate floor leader Corina L.

See AFTER on Page 4

## 'CPA is in compliance with FLSA'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is shooting down allegations of the CPA transition committee, which claims that the agency is not in compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act when it comes to its firefighters at the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting unit.

In comments made by CPA's management in response to transition team member Cody Norita report alleging that CPA's violation of the FLSA rules on overtime, it stated that CPA is in

See CPA on Page 4

**'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN**  
Days until  
'touchback rule'  
takes effect on  
Sept. 30, 2023:  
**180**



### PALM SUNDAY

Sunday school children of Saipan Community Church present a brief number while waving palm branches during yesterday's service at the Susupe church, marking Palm Sunday to signal the start of the Holy Week, when the world's Christendom mark's Lent.

MARK RABAGO

### INSIDE



#### BUSINESS

Hyatt Regency Saipan and DCCA celebrated Women's History Month by championing female artists.

PAGE 12



#### NATION

Dozens of tornadoes kill at least 26 people in small towns and big cities across the U.S.

PAGE 13



#### LIFE & STYLE

Jury says Gwyneth Paltrow wasn't to blame for a 2016 collision with a retired optometrist.

PAGE 15



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# Local

## 'Flame Tree Arts Festival is just postponed, not cancelled'

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**  
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CORRESPONDENT

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Mary Margaret Sablan clarified Friday that the annual Flame Tree Arts Festival is not being cancelled this year; it is merely postponed.

In a news briefing last Friday on Capital Hill to clarify the issue in response to a report that the festival is being cancelled (not in *Saipan*

*Tribune*), Sablan that DCCA is not planning to completely cancel the event, but is at the moment postponing it.

She said she was surprised at the new report. "We never said it was canceled."

Unfortunately, she said, "we're in a really bad state. It's just very difficult. We owe people from last year, we owe vendors, we don't want to balloon the deficit more than it already is."

"This is just on the surface.

We have a \$25,000 deficit and that's just for our Flame Tree. To run it would cost a whole lot more. A little over double that. ... But you know, we can scale it a little bit. It's going to require a lot a lot more sponsors, a lot more money, and our economy is just not strong enough right now. We have to build and what we have is very little and we have to prioritize.

"It's been difficult. We all know the situation with the government and we do want

to support our artists. It's a time where they come out and showcase their artwork and that's very important as they work so hard throughout the whole year," she added.

Responding to a news release that the Flame Tree Arts Festival was to be cancelled, the

Sablan said the \$25,000 deficit is just from last year's festivities, and a chunk of that is owed vendors. She said she isn't aware of any other deficits

from previous years' festivals.

Considering the payments that still need to be made, Sablan said the agency wants to be able to pay off vendors before deciding whether they have sufficient funds for another festival.

Holding the festival would require roughly \$50,000, she said.

As an artist herself, Sablan said she finds it difficult to hold off an event like this, especially with so many people involved in the event, like partners, sponsors etc., but she said they do want to make sure an event like this happens in a year.

"We are still exploring. ... We're trying to see if some of our business sectors and private sectors would step up to the plate to help us out. There are other things that we're exploring, so we're not totally at a no. We hope to be able to still have it maybe toward the latter part of the year.

"I was talking to a friend of mine that July would be a good time because July is when the flame trees are blooming, but the fact of it is it really all depends on our funding.

"We would like to push it back and see how we can build up on that if we push it to July and maybe work with people



Sablan

like the mayor's office, other partners, the private sector, to come out and help us with the big undertaking that it requires to make it happen," said Sablan.

When asked what will happen to those who are already registered in case the festival does get cancelled, Sablan replied, "Getting their money back is not difficult because their donations, their contribution and the fees have been safeguarded, so getting it back if it were to be canceled will not be a problem. But the fact of the matter is we're not completely canceling it, it just doesn't look like it's going to be happening next month."

When discussing the registration applicant's deadline, Sablan said a decision will be made in the next couple of days on how long the arts festival is going to be pushed back. "And then we will send out the notice in publicize it as of the continuation of the registration."

As of now, until further notice, registration will continue.

*Hafa Adail*

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## Falling fuel prices result in lower FAC this April

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be reducing its Fuel Adjustment Charge this April.

A CUC news release last Friday stated that it has been notified by its fuel supplier, Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc., that there has been a

decrease in the average international fuel oil prices that will affect the FAC. As a result, the current FAC rate will be reduced by 2.3 cents (\$0.02318) from \$0.27989 per kWh to \$0.25671 per kWh effective April 1, 2023.

The FAC is one of two

components that make up the CUC electric kWh rate, which is used to purchase fuel. The second component is the CUC base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt service. This base rate has not been increased since April 17, 2014.

CUC is required, pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), to adjust (up or down) the FAC pass-through rate when the Mean of Platts

Singapore (MOPS) monthly pricing provided by Mobil equals or exceeds a 4.5 percent differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate.

CUC first instituted the LEAC in 2009 to recover

fuel and fuel related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam and the Virgin Islands. In May 2015, the CPUC authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers a more accurate description of the electric rate. **(PR)**

## CNMI will get \$8.27M for 2023 CIPs

» Commonwealth also receiving \$1.91M to upgrade water, wastewater, stormwater infrastructure

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

The CNMI government will get \$8.27 million in federal grants for 2023 capital improvement projects for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) over the weekend.

Sablan also disclosed in his e-kilili newsletter that the CNMI will be receiving \$1.91 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law through this year's Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

He said the U.S. Department of the Interior announced Tuesday the grant awards that will enable the CNMI government to construct, install, upgrade, and continue capital improvement projects worth \$8,277,667.

He said the projects span Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and include upgrading the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s health information system, constructing power lines and a solid waste convenience center, building resilient infrastructure against super typhoons, and installing water lines.

CHCC's health information system upgrading and the solid waste center in As Gonno

construction will get \$2,500,000 and \$2,245,973, respectively. This will make the two projects the biggest recipients of the CIP funding.

Tinian will receive \$874,330 for its west San Jose powerlines, while Rota will get the same amount for its Dugi waterline installation.

Sablan said \$827,765 will go to CIP program administration, \$500,000 to Federal Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Grant, and \$455,269 for infrastructure maintenance projects.

The delegate said this fiscal year's \$8.3 million in grant funds is down from last fiscal year's \$8.8 million.

He said funds are allocated among the CNMI, American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands based on a number of competitive factors, including timely single audits from each insular government, as agreed to in the 2004 Section 702 Funding Agreement between the special representatives of the President and the Commonwealth's governor.

On the clean water project, Sablan said the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced Saturday that

\$1,914,000 can be used by the CNMI to upgrade essential water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure.

"We have been able to include a special set-aside of 1.5% of Clean Water funds for the insular areas every year since 2010," the delegate said.

## Local influencers collaborate on Japan promo

In a first-of-a-kind four-way collaboration, Saipan will be the focus of attention on Instagram this weekend as @lealeaguam\_jp teams up with @crownplaza-resortsaipan and local influencers @saipan\_kaoru and @ayaka\_maru.saipan to showcase the island to the Japan market.

The Insta-live collaboration

kicked off yesterday, Sunday, with @lealeaguam\_jp at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, followed by @saipan\_kaoru on the same day taking the lead in showcasing some of the island's historical sites and the stunning sunset.

The collaboration continues today, Monday, from

4pm to 5pm, with @ayaka\_maru.saipan taking the group on a leisurely walk to her favorite restaurants and stores in Garapan.

With Japan's Golden Week and summer vacation approaching and the combined reach of the influencers, the collaboration is a great opportunity to showcase the island to the Japan market. **(PR)**

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## KagES wins 2nd place in McDonald's 'Race to Raise' campaign

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**  
chrystal\_marino@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT

Collecting 240 tickets to their name in a three-week span, the Kagman Elementary School was announced the second-place winner in McDonald's "Race to Raise" competition, which sought to raised funds for the school. McDonald's of Saipan presented the \$3,000 prize to the school's representative last

Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at the restaurant's main location in Chalan Kiya, but officially released the news to the public yesterday.

The "Race to Raise" fundraiser, held during McDonald's 30th anniversary on the island, was an endeavor to show the restaurants' support for the CNMI Public School System, education, and all students. The campaign began on March 1, 2023, and continued until March 19, 2023. Dur-

ing that period, patrons of McDonald's who had purchased meals worth \$15 and up were encouraged to drop their receipt in a drop box designated for the school they wish to support. KES took the second-place prize of \$3,000, behind first place winner, William S. Reyes Elementary School, which received a total of 602 receipts, thus winning the first place prize of \$5,000.

KagES principal Dr. Ignacia J De-

mapan extends her heartfelt thanks to McDonald's for its support of education. "Biba, biba, biba, McDonald's on your 30th anniversary! *Si yu'us ma'asi yan tirow* for the 'Race to Raise' campaign opportunity. Kagman Elementary School appreciates their winning of second place in the event. Thank you for your outreach programs that help our school communities thrive in their needs for student success." Demapan wished continued success to McDonald's and its restaurant business in the CNMI.

"McDonald's of Saipan values integrity, community, and family, and we are passionate in the young generation to learn and develop important skills for their bright futures," said McDonald's of Guam and Saipan president Joe Ayuyu Sr.

As a way of showing further support of schools, McDonald's will be giving all other participating public elementary schools in the CNMI, including Tinian and Rota, that did not win, a participation prize of \$500.

## Easter celebration at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan

By **LEIGH GASES**  
leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Hop into Easter this Easter Sunday, April 9, at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan for a holiday celebration that has a full day of activities for the whole family to enjoy.

Crowne Plaza is preparing a special Easter Day menu for their Sunday Brunch at the Terrace Restaurant from 11am to 2pm. Enjoy a 15% local discount from the original brunch price.

Take a break from the delicious

and well-rounded buffet as in-house guests and restaurant guests will be able to enjoy an Easter egg hunt on the resort grounds, starting at 1pm. Lucky winners of the egg hunt will get prizes.

Chef Zenn Tomokane will host a cookie decorating station, allowing children and adults alike to be creative with their Easter treats.

In addition to the egg hunt and cookie decorating, there will be lots of opportunities for family photos with Mr. Easter Bunny as he makes an appearance, giving families the

chance to capture their memories with their loved ones.

Robert Coates, the resort's general manager, is excited to share this occasion with everyone and extends an invitation to all guests to join in on the festivities.

With so much to see and do, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan is the perfect destination for an unforgettable Easter Sunday. Don't miss your chance to create lasting memories with your family at this exciting event!

For reservations, call (670)234-6414 or visit their website, [saipan.crowneplaza.com](http://saipan.crowneplaza.com).



## CPA

From Page 1

compliance with the FLSA and that rules that apply to state governments do not apply at the local level.

Norita previously stated in his transition report that airport firefighters currently work up to 96 hours per pay period, contrary to the FLSA rule that says firefighters must work 106 hours in a 14-day work period.

CPA claims this is not true for local governments. "FLSA does not require that local governments schedule firefighters to work 106 hours per 14-

day pay period. Rather, the FLSA requires overtime compensation for all hours worked over 106 hours. Since the late 1990s, ARFF firefighters have worked or been scheduled to work 96 hours per pay period," said CPA.

Norita also stated on his report that airport firefighters are being forced to take leave instead of ARFF paying these first responders for overtime.

"ARFF firefighters are paid compensatory time instead of overtime for work done in excess of 106 hours and are being forced to take leave to use up that comp time instead of paying it out after two pay period," said Norita.

The CPA management team says this is also untrue and that ARFF chain of command has never forced anyone to take a leave.

"ARFF firefighters are paid compensatory time in lieu of overtime wages at a rate of 1.5 hours. ARFF firefighters agree to CPAs compensatory time-off policy upon employment," said CPA.

"CPA is in compliance with FLSA comp-time rules. It is not in violation of the FLSA for ARFF firefighters to be paid comp-time in lieu of overtime wages. CPA's ARFF chief reports that he has never forced anyone to take leave to use comp-time hours," CPA added.

## MSA

From Page 1

According to Southern Airways, those who were displaced as a result of MSA's shutdown will be given an opportunity to relocate to another Southern Airways branch or will be offered the opportunity to work for Southern Airways on a work-from-home basis.

"All of Southern's employees in the CNMI and Guam will be offered relocation opportunities or will be reassigned to work-from-home duties that will assist Southern in operating its 24-hour customer service center supporting operations around the world," said Southern Airways in a statement when it announced the company's withdrawal from the CNMI.

Still, Southern Airways CEO Stan Little thanked MSA president Keith Stewart and vice president William Giles for partnering with them to bring interisland service to the CNMI.

"We would like to thank Keith Stewart and Bill Giles, our joint venture partners in Saipan, for doing everything in their power to make

this service viable for the people of the Marianas. Their love and care for the people of the CNMI and Guam is inspiring, and I share in their disappointment at the governor's decision. Elections have consequences, and that's something we cannot ever forget," he said.

Southern Airways, the largest commuter airline in United States, officially withdrew as the operating airline for Marianas Southern Airways last April 1.

"The decision is based on the unwillingness of Gov. Arnold Palacios to honor the contract signed by the previous administration. The final flights will operate on April 1, 2023. All passengers booked after April 1 will see refunds to their credit cards beginning next week," said Little.

Southern Airways has been the operating partner for Marianas Southern Airways since the airline's inception. Marianas Southern launched operations in the CNMI and Guam in August 2022 following the execution of an incentive contract with the CNMI government last March.

Southern was identified as the only airline willing to commit resources to the CNMI in the wake of an abrupt suspension of flights by the CNMI's

lone inter-island airline, Star Marianas, which is faced with tax-related issues with the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

"We understand how vitally important interisland air service is to people living in island communities. That's why we felt compelled to be part of a sustainable solution for the people of the [CNMI]. Unfortunately, since the new governor's announcement, ticket sales have plummeted to the level where service in the Marianas is no longer feasible. This could have been worked out, but the governor just wasn't interested in talking to us. I'll never understand the lack of effort to salvage this investment," said Little.

Southern is the parent company of Mokulele Airlines, which operates the most daily interisland flights in Hawaii.

"We love the people of the Marianas and are deeply sad that the money set aside for this contract is no longer available to serve their needs," said Keith Sisson, chief of staff of Southern Airways. "This unfortunate situation at least introduced us to a wealth of talent whom we hope will contribute to our company's success going forward elsewhere."

## HOUSE

From Page 1

proposed revisions to the fiscal year 2023 budget law, Public Law 22-22.

All 20 House members voted "yes" to adopt House Concurrent Resolution 23-1, Senate Draft 1.

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* inquiry, House Speaker Edmund S. Vilagomez (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday the Senate just changed the language, but everything else is the same in terms of the numbers.

House and Ways Committee chair Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) introduced HCR 23-1 last March 13 and the House adopted it that same day. Several other representatives co-sponsored the resolution.

The concurrent resolution is the first step of the budget process. It places the total estimated gross budgetary resources for fiscal year 2023 at \$164,198,068. Minus earmarks and transfers out in the total amount of \$48,004,271, the total local revenue and resources available for appropriation in fiscal year 2023 is

\$116,193,797.

Adding the \$5,407,897 budget for the Department Public Lands, the grand total local revenue and resources available for appropriation is \$121,601,694.

Former governor Ralph DLG Torres enacted the Appropriations Act of 2023 (Public Law 22-22), which placed the total amount for appropriations at \$104,374,369.

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios later asked the Legislature to revise the 2023 budget, noting that just after the first quarter of fiscal year 2023, a large portion of the funds from the American Rescue Plan Act that were available for appropriation in fiscal year 2023 have already been expended and are unavailable for the rest of fiscal year 2023.

Last March 17, the House unanimously passed House Bill 23-31, House Substitute 1, which repealed and re-enacted Public Law 22-22, or the fiscal year 2023 appropriations and budget law, to reflect the revised projections. The bill is now before the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chaired by Sen. Donald M. Manglo-na (Ind-Rota).

## AFTER

From Page 1

Magofna (Ind-Saipan) then flew off to attend an Indian gaming convention in San Diego, California, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

*Saipan Tribune* also learned from multiple sources that Magofna's husband, Joseph Rios Jr., recently resigned as acting Department of Commerce secretary but later rescinded his resignation.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was waiting for comment from both Magofna and Rios.

Sources said that Magofna, who chairs the Senate Gaming Committee, went off-island to attend the Indian Gaming Tradeshow & Convention at the San Diego Convention Center, in San Diego, California, last March 27-30, 2023. Magofna was still off-island as of yesterday.

The convention is reportedly the largest gathering of tribal leaders and casino executives in the country. According to the Indian Gaming Tradeshow & Convention's website, the event "delivers the insight and strategies you need to rise to the top of the competitive gaming industry landscape."

Seven lawmakers, including Magofna, attended the three-day ASEAN Gaming Summit at the Manila Marriot Hotel from March 21 to 23. They said they used their office budget for the expenses incurred during the summit.

Last March 19, Magofna sent an

off-island notice to Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) that she will be out of the CNMI on official business trip beginning March 19 to 29. Magofna said she will be back on April 6 and asked to be excused from meetings or sessions during her absence.

As for Rios, sources said he resigned as acting Commerce secretary just before his confirmation hearing last March 28, but then rescinded his resignation on or about the day of the hearing.

Sources said Rios had a meeting with his staff last March 23, in which he informed them that he had submitted his resignation letter to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and that his last day in office would be Friday, March 31. However, sources said, Rios met his staff on March 29 and told them he is not resigning after all and will be staying on.

The Senate Executive Appointments and Government Investigations' confirmation hearing for Rios appointment did not push through last March 28, after Oscar M. Babauta, who is the special assistant for the administration of Palacios-Apatang, told the committee that Rios had asked to postpone the hearing as he is taking care of a pressing personal matter.

Rios appeared briefly in the Senate chamber, but did not speak to the committee. He, however, apparently briefly met with EAGI Committee chair Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) in the latter's office before the hearing.



# MLSC honors Guerrero’s role in making legal services accessible

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**  
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CORRESPONDENT

The Micronesian Legal Services Corp. adopted last Tuesday March 28, 2023, a resolution to recognize Herman Rogolifoi Guerrero and his many efforts and services to the corporation and to the people of Micronesia.

In Resolution 2023-1, the MLSC board of directors expressed its deep gratitude and appreciation to Guerrero, and noted his “dedication to the principle of free legal services to low-income persons throughout Micronesia” and upon his passing sought to honor and highlight his outstanding contributions to

MLSC and Micronesians. The organization transmitted a certified copy of the resolution to Guerrero’s family. The MLSC resolution credits the conception, design, and establishment of the organization to the efforts of Guerrero and others from 1970 and ’71. Prior to MLSC most individuals from Micronesian islands

with legal problems had no access to a justice system. An email from MLSC stated that the corporation was established in order to provide the people of Micronesia with affordable legal services. “During this time, many locals were taken advantage of because of their unfamiliarity with the law. Investors who were interested in leasing the land of locals would often present unfair contracts which allowed various injustices to occur. Herman Guerrero’s dedication allowed MLSC to educate low income individuals of their legal rights and how they can stand up for their beliefs.”

Because of his services, each year some 20,000 individuals get assisted at the eight MLSC regional offices since the organization’s establishment.

The resolution noted that it was also through Guerrero that MLSC received their first funded grant from the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity, and that he and Tony DeBrum from Marshall Islands went on to secure the initial funding.

Holding various levels of authority and trust among people, even during MLSC’s beginning, Guerrero was also the executive director of the Mariana Island District Com-

munity Action Agency and was a member of the Congress of Micronesia, representing Saipan. He was later elected several times to the Senate of the Congress of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Guerrero served as MLSC’s first president of the board of directors, and was once again president in the 1980’s. MLSC highlighted that Guerrero took a leading role when it came to

finding solutions even during times of crisis, one such being the times when the former Trust Territory High Commissioner’s efforts to shut down MLSC in the 1970’s due to tremendous budget cuts. The former senator passed away in Guam on March 11, 2023, at the age of 83, just shy of his 84th birthday on May 6, 2023. Funeral services for the late senator was held on March 30, 2023.

## Cap reached for additional returning worker H-2B visas for the early second half of FY23

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has received enough petitions to reach the cap for the additional 16,500 H-2B visas made available for returning workers for the early second half of fiscal year 2023, with start dates from April 1, 2023 to May 14, 2023, under the FY 2023 H-2B supplemental visa temporary final rule.

We will reject and return any H-2B petitions received after March 30, 2023, that are filed for a returning worker under the early second half of FY 2023 allocation.

We continue to accept petitions for H-2B nonimmigrant workers for the additional 20,000 visas allotted for nationals of Haiti, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras for

the first and second halves of FY 2023. Eligible petitioners whose workers were not accepted for the 16,500 returning-worker allotment for the early second half of FY 2023 are encouraged to file under the Haiti, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras allotment while visas remain available. As of March 30, 2023, USCIS has received petitions requesting 9,791 workers under the 20,000 visas set aside for nationals of Haiti, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

Starting April 13, 2023, we will begin accepting petitions for workers for the late second half of FY 2023, requesting employment start dates from May 15, 2023, to Sept. 30, 2023. The 10,000 visas made available under this alloca-

tion are limited to returning workers who were issued H-2B visas or held H-2B status in fiscal years 2020, 2021, or 2022, regardless of country of nationality.

We will also continue to accept H-2B petitions for workers who are exempt from the congressionally mandated cap. This includes petitions for:


- Current H-2B workers in the United States petitioning to extend their stay and, if applicable, change the terms of their employment or change their employers;
- Fish roe processors, fish roe technicians, and/or supervisors of fish roe processing; and
- Workers performing labor or services in the CNMI and/or Guam (until Dec. 31, 2029). *(USCIS)*



### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH


U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Glenda Francis, left, 51st Security Forces Squadron, NCO in-charge of armory and Senior Airman Amron Barcinas, 51st SFS armorer, pose for a photo in celebration of Women's History Month at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 27, 2023. Francis hails from a Native American reservation in Maine and is the first in her family to serve in the military. Similarly, Barcinas represents her family from the island of Rota, which is part of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Growing in small communities played a vital role in the women they are and they feel their diverse backgrounds and experiences contribute to what makes the Air Force great.

U.S. AIR FORCE/STAFF SGT. DWANE R. YOUNG



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INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-23-013

RELOCATION OF EXISTING 0.065 MG MODULAR TANK IN KAGMAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Relocation of Existing 0.065 MG Modular Tank in Kagman, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of furnishing all labor, supervision, equipment and materials for the relocation of an existing water tank within San Vicente Water tank site to the existing Kagman booster pump station site. Work includes, but is not limited to disassembly and relocation of an existing 65,000-gallon modular fiberglass potable water tank; demolition and disposal of existing temporary tank plinth at San Vicente Tank site; construction of tank foundation; installation of relocated tank, piping and appurtenances; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

*This project is funded by a grant from the us Public Law 117-2 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA).*

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **120 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **April 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-IFB-23-013, Relocation of the Existing 0.065 MG Modular Water Tank in Kagman**”, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 2, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.


This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 19, 2023** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Ms. Alley Reyes, Project Engineer via email at [alley.reyes@cucgov.org](mailto:alley.reyes@cucgov.org) and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician via email at [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org)

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.


DR. DALLAS M. PEAVEY, JR.  
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



INVITATION FOR BID

CUC-IFB-23-006

Isley Field and Obyan Wells Granular Activated Carbon Water Filtration System Construction Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Isley Field and Obyan Wells Granular Activated Carbon Water Filtration System Construction Project for IF 208, OB 6, OB 19 and OB 23 in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of the installation of Owner Furnished GAC units, chain link fence removal and installation of new chain link fence, connection of the new waterline to existing waterline, connection of the influent and effluent lines of the GAC units to the existing waterline.

*The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Economic Development Authority (USED A) and OIA. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USED A and OIA.*

CUC requires the project to be completed in **210 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **March 31, 2023 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST** be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-IFB-23-006, Isley Field and Obyan Wells Granular Activated Carbon Water Filtration System Construction Project**” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 25, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 7, 2023** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address, [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org), with a copy to Larry Manacop, Acting Chief Engineer, Water/Wastewater via email at [larry.manacop@cucgov.org](mailto:larry.manacop@cucgov.org), Dennis Formalejo, Engineer, Senior via email at [dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org](mailto:dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org) and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Senior Administrative Technician via email address at [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org). CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator





IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF  
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JAMES DEAN :  
KALLAS : FCD-DI  
Petitioner, : CIVIL ACTION NO.  
vs. : 23-0118  
KATHERINE :  
KAYE CONDE : SUMMONS FOR  
DELOS REYES : PUBLICATION  
Respondent, :

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:  
KATHERINE KAYE CONDE DELOS REYES  
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified  
to file any answer you wish to make to the  
Complaint, a copy of which is on file with  
the Court, within thirty (30) days after  
service of the Summons upon you, and to  
deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the  
Petitioner whose address is P.O. BOX  
500094 SAIPAN, MP 96950 as soon as  
practical after filling your answer or  
sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed  
with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe,  
Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for  
you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk  
of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not  
necessary for you to appear personally  
until further notice. If you fail to file and  
answer in accordance with this Summons,  
Judgement by Default may be taken  
against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 27th day of March, 2023.

/s/  
Clerk of Court

Name: **David & Marissa Hardt**  
Address: **PO Box 504768, Villagomez  
Compound, 916, Fina Sisu, Saipan,  
MP 96950**  
Phone: **(670) 989-5112, (670) 287-4017**

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of :  
the Petitioner for : FCD CN  
the Change of : CIVIL ACTION  
Name of: NO. 23-0119  
Christopher :  
Gordon Hardt : NOTICE  
A Minor Child : OF HEARING  
By: :  
David & Marissa :  
Hardt :  
Petitioner(s) :

Notice is hereby given that the  
above-entitled matter is set for a  
hearing on July 24, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.  
in Courtroom 217A, before Honorable  
Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this day 30th day of March,  
2023.

Patrick V. Diaz  
Clerk of Court

/s/  
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Rota

Tinian

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.  
PO BOX 50 1055 • SAIPAN • MP • 96950  
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500 / 1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962  
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF TYPHOON RESISTANT  
ACCORDION ALUMINUM SHUTTERS AT THE ARFF BUILDING  
BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
ROTA, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.  
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-008-23

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to supply and install typhoon resistant accordion aluminum shutters at the ARFF Building, Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, Rota, CNMI. The Scope of Work and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning **March 20, 2023**, upon payment of \$100.00 in cash, cashier's check, credit card or certified check to the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport.

Proposals will be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport no later than **2:00 P.M. CHST, April 19, 2023**. Proposals received after the date/time indicated above will not be opened and will be returned to the Proposer.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than **ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount**. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

EDWARD B. MENDIOLA  
Deputy Executive Director

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.  
PO BOX 50 1055 • SAIPAN • MP • 96950  
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500 / 1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962  
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMPORTS.COM

INVITATION FOR BID

CPA-IFB-002-23

PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE TRACTOR  
AND MOWER TO BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA  
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ROTA

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting bids for the procurement and delivery of one Tractor & Mower for the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona, Rota International Airport.

The Bid Package may be picked up beginning March 14, 2023 at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport upon payment of an administrative fee of \$100.00 in cash, cashier's check, or credit card.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package: "Bid: Tractor/Mower for the Rota International Airport-CPA-IFB-002-23. CONFIDENTIAL"

One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrivals Building, Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, not later than **2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, Friday, April 14, 2023**. Bid opening will be at 3:00 p.m. same day at the Procurement Department, 2nd Floor—Departure Building, Saipan International Airport.

Questions and/or clarifications regarding this IFB, the Tractor Mower and its Specifications shall be in writing and emailed to [sharlene.manglona@cnmpiports.com](mailto:sharlene.manglona@cnmpiports.com) (Rota Ports Manager) with copy to [atudela@cnmpiports.com](mailto:atudela@cnmpiports.com) (Alex Tudela/Procurement Officer) no later than April 3, 2023. **Any question or clarification will not be entertained after this date.** Answers to questions and/or clarifications will be provided to each vendor or individual receiving a bid package.

Bids received after the above closing date and time of this Invitation for Bid will not be accepted and will be returned unopened. CPA reserves the right to reject any and all bids if in its opinion to do so is in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD B. MENDIOLA  
Executive Director

Date \_\_\_\_\_

CUC'S FEMALE WORKFORCE

As Women's International Month came to an end last March 31, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board chair pro tem Janice A. Tenorio, centered, second row; acting executive director Dr. Dallas M. Peavey, Jr., seated front row, fourth from right; and the CUC management recognize their diverse women employees, who range from engineers to trades & tech workers, managers to administrative staff and customer service representatives. CUC recognizes the value and importance of their women employees who play a great contribution to the work force of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Other photos show CUC's female employees on Rota and Tinian.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Power interruption in Isley Field tomorrow

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, in the Isley Field (airport) area from 9am to 10am.

■ Area(s) affected: AARF, Saipan Skydive, Airport Radio Tower, POI;

■ Purpose: For the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to perform system improvements on Continental Road for the back-up Power Plant 3;

■ Water well(s) affected: IF-1, IF-3, and IF-5-IF8; IF11, IF12, IF-16, IF18-IF24; IF-28, IF-101, IF-102, IF-105, IF-

106, IF-108; IF-201, IF-208, IF-211, IF-217, IF-220, IF Booster-2;

■ Water services to the Commonwealth Ports Authority, As Terlaje Tank Service Area, Kannat Tabla TSA, and Dandan TSA may be affected based on the water tank levels.

■ No wastewater facility or traffic lights will be affected.

For more information, contact the CUC hotline at (670) 236-4333 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)



# CUC’s wastewater operators praised for extraordinary efforts



Martha Guzman, the regional administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Region 9), along with other senior EPA staff, pose for a souvenir photo with Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and other CNMI officials after a tour of the Sadog Tasi wastewater treatment plant last March 30, 2023.

Martha Guzman, the regional administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Region 9), has praised the extraordinary work and efforts of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.’s wastewater operators.

In a recent tour of the Sadog Tasi treatment plant, Guzman recognized the operators for working wonders to keep the wastewater treatment plant running, considering difficult circumstances. She also commended the new CUC management in place and is happy with the great progress in all areas.

Guzman, along with several senior EPA staff, toured the Sadog Tasi treatment plant last March 30, 2023. They were accompanied by CUC board of director’s chair pro tem Janice A. Tenorio, acting executive director Dr. Dallas M. Peavey, Jr., deputy executive director Chretien Voerg, CUC management officials, Rep. Marissa Flores (in her capacity as a member of the House Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications Committee), and CUC’s treatment plant operators. Guzman had requested a site visit of the treatment plant to recognize the operators.

The treatment plant’s clarifier had been broken just before Typhoon Mangkhut back in 2018. In order to keep the plant running, operators invented and constructed a type of clarifier out of PVC piping that would help scrape, plow, and pump system to remove sludge. For over four years, operators had to physically


drag the scraper across the bottom of the clarifier twice per day, using ropes to move sludge along the bottom to the suction pipes. With the incredible efforts of the operators, the treatment plant has complied for solids and organic pollutants removal.

At the site visit, Voerg elaborated on how CUC is proud of the improvements made in protecting public health and the environment through providing effective water and wastewater services in the CNMI.

“But no project funded, equipment built, or program developed would result in any public health or environmental benefit if it were not for the operators and their support staff who perform the miracle of turning waste into clean water here at Sadog Tasi and at our sister plant at Agingan,” said Voerg. “Without their dedication, effort, and sacrifice, our visions for clean water in the CNMI would not be a reality. And it is our operations staff whom we are here to appreciate today and in particular,

I would like to recognize the employees who could not be here today because their skills and knowledge are required in the field to keep our systems operational.”

Guzman became EPA regional administrator for the nations’ Pacific Southwest Region (Region 9) on Dec. 20, 2021. In her role she is leading EPA efforts to protect public health and the environment for the region spanning from Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, the U.S. Pacific Islands territories in the areas of climate change, environmental justice and scientific integrity. (PR/Saipan Tribune)



**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:	Opening Date	Closing Date
2023-011	CDBG-DR Housing Supervisor (1-Position) Re-announcement	UNGRADED \$40,000.00 to \$45,000.00 Per annum	April 2, 2023	April 18, 2023 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at [www.nmhcgov.net](http://www.nmhcgov.net) and [www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com](http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com).

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to [officemanager@nmhcgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhcgov.net).

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to [officemanager@nmhcgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhcgov.net). NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/  
**Jesse S. Palacios**  
Corporate Director



**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

**PUBLIC DISCLOSURE**

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Monday, January 31, 2022, **Ramon B. Camacho dba Camacho Rental** applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Affordable Rental Housing Development Program. On January 9, 2023, Ramon B. Camacho has taken office as Mayor of the Municipality of Saipan, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.


Said applicant is aware of the housing needs of Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) families who have been affected by Super Typhoon Yutu. The CNMI has not been able to recover from this disaster quickly enough to meet the community's housing needs. The Camacho Rental project proposes to rebuild four (4) units, including two (2) units of two-bedrooms and two (2) units of three-bedrooms. The proposed project will contribute to addressing some of the market demands for affordable housing and the current housing shortages our island is experiencing. Ramon B. Camacho is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR § 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

**Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Tuesday, April 4, 2023.**

Dated this 20th day of March, 2023.

/s/  
**JESSE S. PALACIOS**  
Corporate Director



**NORTHERN MARIANAS COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE**  
P.O. BOX 506689, SAIPAN, MP 96950  
PHONE: 670.234.3878

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER**

NMCADSV is looking for a motivated individual to join its team! We are looking for someone who is rooted in service and believes in the social justice values we uphold.

**Job Summary:** The Communications Manager will work with the Executive Director of NMCADSV and its Board to achieve its mission, goals, and objectives. The Communications Manager will participate in the daily operations of NMCADSV; plan, develop, and monitor all NMCADSV communications; and provide support for NMCADSV’s programmatic activities.

**Minimum Qualifications:** An understanding of and agreement with NMCADSV’s mission statement and philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence; exceptional written communication skills for diverse audiences and platforms; experience with community organizing and/or outreach; experience with non-profit social media management; experience with website development and management; ability to manage multiple projects and deadlines; and access to reliable transportation.

**Classification & Salary Range:** Full Time, Exempt. Some nights and weekends required. Travel may be required. \$18.00/hr to \$21.00/hr (based on experience and qualifications).

Copies of the full Position Description can be requested by email at [Info@EndViolenceNMI.org](mailto:Info@EndViolenceNMI.org) or downloaded from the NMCADSV Facebook or Instagram account (@EndViolenceNMI). Hard copies are also available at the NMCADSV Office (directions below).

**To Apply:** A Resume and Cover Letter should be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, April 14, 2023**. Provide a list (not copies) of any certifications and/or awards. Late and incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Submit **resume and cover letter** to [info@endviolencenmi.org](mailto:info@endviolencenmi.org), deliver to NMCADSV’s office (**between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.**) at the Marina Heights I Building (2nd Floor, Suite 206) or mail to NMCADSV, P.O. Box 506689, Saipan, MP 96950. (Mailed applications must be postmarked on or before the deadline.) Applicants who are invited for an interview will be asked to bring a copy of their Diploma or equivalent, Police Clearance (within last 30 days), valid ID, and a list of references.

The review of applications will begin immediately. **Scheduling of interviews for the first round of candidates will begin the week of May 1, 2023** progressing until a qualified applicant is hired.

NMCADSV is an equal opportunity employer.  
Individuals from under-served communities are encouraged to apply.

*This project is 100% supported by federal grants, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, Grant Award #15JOVW-21-GG-00717-MUMU and the Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, Grant Award #2201MPSDVC. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this release are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.*



# Opinion

Hafa Adair

## Saipan Tribune

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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
editor@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Follow facts, not rhetoric, in Trump case



AP

Former President Donald Trump speaks with reporters while in flight on his plane after a campaign rally at Waco Regional Airport, in Waco, Texas, March 25, 2023, while en route to West Palm Beach, Fla.

**D**onald Trump, who has shattered nearly every political precedent, is now the first ex-president to be indicted.

The charges, which are thought to be focused on an alleged hush-money payment to an adult-film actress, aren't expected until early next week. Just as the jury must judge the facts of the case, so too should the American people.

Unfortunately, the legal and political speculation and posturing didn't wait. Republican politicians and like-minded media outlets rushed to discredit the investigation and exonerate the former president. At the same time, Democrats and other pundits called it a critical step forward for the nation.

Indeed, there are more "unknowns" than "knowns" about this case. But many truths—including ones that go back to the nation's founding—are known.

One is that in America, defendants are innocent until proven guilty. Trump has denied any wrongdoing and deserves that presumption of innocence unless or until he's found guilty. The jury and the American people should put aside partisan views of the former president.

Trump deserves a fair shake in the courtroom and the court of public opinion. So does Alvin Bragg, the Manhattan district attorney overseeing the case.

Yes, Bragg should be certain that his course of action is proportional to the stakes the nation faces from such a consequential prosecution. But Bragg didn't indict Trump—a grand jury did.

That hasn't stopped online and on-air attacks on Bragg's character and credibility. Those reflexively defending Trump, including Republican officeholders, have attached the now-common "[George] Soros-backed" prefix before his name—a thinly veiled anti-Semitic trope Trump has also used. The former president has also called Bragg, a Black man, an "animal" and posted a photo composite of Bragg's head next to Trump holding a baseball bat.

Upon taking office, all these lawmakers and Trump took oaths to defend the Constitution. Nothing in this country's

See FOLLOW on Page 9



## Trump's indictment is a historic first. Here's why more are likely to follow

**T**he news that a Manhattan grand jury has returned an indictment of Donald Trump—the first criminal charge against a former president in the nation's history—is monumental in itself. We should pause for a moment to appreciate the giant step that Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg has taken toward accountability for a man who has shown nothing but contempt for the rule of law.

But Thursday's announcement also ushers in a new normal that will be among the most strange and stressful periods in America's legal and political annals. The charges in the New York case, along with others likely to follow from Georgia and the federal government, will be caught up in a presidential campaign through which Trump is seeking vindication.

Trump's instinct will be to put as much stress as possible on the prosecution and its prosecutors, claiming at every turn renewed proof of a political vendetta against him and his supporters. In recent months, he has exhorted his followers to see the charges as an attack on them and to see him as their salvation and retribution. This quasi-religious posturing will only intensify as trial dates approach.

Even in New York, new developments indicate that Bragg's case goes beyond the scheme to pay hush money to Stormy Daniels. The 11th-hour appearance before the grand jury of David Pecker, a former chairman of the company that publishes the National Enquirer, suggests Bragg's office was also looking into hush money paid to model Karen McDougal in a scheme that extended into Trump's presidency. That could broaden the charges to a longer-running conspiracy to deceive and conceal, countering partisans who have attacked the Daniels case as insignificant.

Moreover, amid the speculation surrounding the Manhattan investigation in recent weeks, Special Counsel Jack Smith's federal investigations took dramatic steps toward holding Trump accountable both for classified records discovered at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida and for the events surrounding the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection. Meanwhile, in Fulton County, Georgia, District Attorney Fani Willis is investigating Trump's related interference in the state's 2020 election, which could well yield additional charges.

In the classified documents case, U.S. District Court Judge Beryl Howell ordered Trump lawyer Evan Corcoran to testify before a grand jury, agreeing with the Justice Department that his communications with Trump were not protected by attorney-client privilege because they may have been in furtherance of illegal storage of classified documents. Corcoran's testimony could well form the centerpiece of a federal indictment of Trump in what looks to be a fairly straightforward and thoroughly investigated case.

Breakthroughs in the investigation surrounding the Jan. 6 insurrection were no less significant. Most notably, Smith won impor-

By **HARRY LITMAN**  
Los Angeles Times

Harry Litman is host of the Talking Feds podcast. @harrylitman



tant rulings in the federal district court rejecting claims of privilege by former Vice President Mike Pence and Trump's Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, both of whom have sought to avoid testifying.

The full and truthful testimony of those two men could devastate the former president. Meadows was neck-deep in almost all aspects of Trump's post-election schemes and the closest eyewitness to Trump's conduct on Jan. 6. Pence, meanwhile, was on the receiving end of Trump's vitriolic efforts to strong-arm him into breaking the law.

We're not yet at the end of the road with either former Trump lieutenant. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia has already rejected executive privilege arguments against providing such testimony on numerous occasions, and it can be expected to make quick work of Meadows' claim here. But the former chief of staff may well choose to assert 5th Amendment protection against incriminating himself, leaving the Justice Department with a very difficult decision: whether to force his testimony against Trump by granting him immunity, which federal prosecutors are normally loath to do for such a culpable party.

Pence's claim is more novel—though ultimately no more compelling. He has argued that the Constitution's "speech or debate" clause, which shields members of Congress from reprisals for legislative conduct, immunizes him against testifying because the vice president serves as president of the Senate. Judge James "Jeb" Boasberg, the new chief judge of the U.S. District Court in Washington, ruled that the clause might shield Pence from testifying about his conduct in presiding over Congress' certification of the 2020 election, but not from testifying about the conduct he witnessed as Trump's vice president. In other words, it would not shield Pence from having to describe in great detail Trump's campaign to force him to commit a crime.

After years of waiting for some response to Trump's transgressions, Thursday's historic development has a kind of "at last" feel. But in important ways, it's only the first phase of an extended test of the system's ability to deliver justice under uniquely difficult conditions.



## EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## The five key foundations of trust

**T**he Speed of Trust by Stephen M.R. Covey is a compelling and thought-provoking book that emphasizes the importance of trust in our personal and professional lives. Covey argues that trust is the foundation upon which all relationships are built and that it is essential for creating strong teams, successful businesses, and thriving communities.

One of the book's key messages is that trust is not just a soft, nice-to-have quality but a hard-edged, economic driver of success. Covey explains that trust impacts everything, from employee morale and productivity to customer loyalty and profitability. He also provides numerous real-world examples of how trust has played a critical role in the success of some of the world's most respected organizations. He identifies five essential behaviors for building trust: integrity, transparency, loyalty, delivering results, and practicing accountability.

Let's explore these behaviors and how they contribute to building trust:

### Integrity.

Integrity is the foundation of trust. It means being honest, ethical, and consistent in your actions and words. People with integrity do what they say they will do, even when difficult or inconvenient. They keep their promises, follow through on commitments, and take responsibility for their actions. When someone has integrity, they are seen as trustworthy and reliable.

### Transparency.

Transparency means being open and honest in your communication. When you are transparent, you share information freely and openly without trying to hide anything. You are willing to admit mistakes and share the bad and good news. Transparency builds trust because it creates an environment of openness and honesty where people feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and ideas.

### Loyalty.

Loyalty means being committed to the success of others. When you are loyal, you put the needs of others ahead of your own. You support others, even when it's difficult or unpopular. You stand by your commitments and do what you say you will do. When someone is loyal, they are seen as trustworthy and dependable.

### Delivering results.

By **ROSEMARIE D. EMBILE**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Rosemarie D. Embile is a teacher at the Northern Marianas International School.*



Delivering results means achieving the outcomes that you promised. When you have effects, you follow through on your commitments and produce high-quality work. You are focused on achieving your goals and are willing to put in the effort required to succeed. When someone delivers results, they are seen as competent and reliable.

### Practicing accountability.

Accountability means taking responsibility for your actions and their outcomes. When you practice accountability, you own up to your mistakes and work to correct them. You are willing to admit when you're wrong and make amends. You follow through on your commitments and hold yourself accountable for achieving your goals. When someone practices accountability, they are seen as trustworthy and responsible.

Together, these five key behaviors form the foundation of trust. When people trust you, they are more likely to be open and honest, work collaboratively, and take risks. Belief creates a positive and productive work environment where people feel valued and respected.

Building and maintaining trust is critical for success in any personal or professional relationship. Stephen M. R. Covey's five critical behaviors of integrity, transparency, loyalty, delivering results, and practicing accountability provide a roadmap for building and maintaining trust. By consistently demonstrating these behaviors, you can create a culture of trust, foster strong relationships, and achieve greater success.

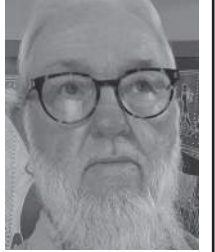
The Speed of Trust is an excellent book for anyone who wants to improve their leadership skills, build stronger teams, or create a more successful business. Covey's insights and practical advice are backed up by extensive research and real-world examples, making this book a valuable resource for anyone interested in building and maintaining trust in all areas of life.

## April is National Poetry Month

### LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



*Joey aka Pepe Batbon Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.*

### April Fools and their Foolish Rush

*"Fools rush in where angels fear to tread."*

—written by Alexander Pope in 1771 at 22 years old

April fools rush in not knowing where to begin helter-skelter across their failing memory banks making noise and talking trash about silly sins playing with your mind pulling lots of pranks

April fools are always out there just look around giving you a hard time about things you believe they make you wonder if your reasoning is sound and you just can't wait until these fools will leave

April fools keep up foolishness all summer long leaving beer cans and trash at all the beach parks always singing the same old 'I'll get it later' song always leave a mess when going home after dark

You'll know when you see them on local bar stools always ready with plenty of BS those April Fools.

### Foolish Fables on Mortals Cables

*"Lord, what fools these mortals be!" is used in William Shakespeare's play, A Midsummer Night's Dream. Originally from Lucius Annaeus Seneca the Younger, a Roman Stoic philosopher, statesman, and dramatist, who was born 5 BC and died 65 AD.*

I can't remember how long I stayed up on the Big Rock Candy Mountain, or where it was or when I went up or when I came back down. My canoe was aluminum, the Lake of Stew was hot, and Whisky Lake was a short portage away. I made frequent trips.

My fellow teacher, Little Miss Muffet, got mad at me when I called her a honey muffin. When a spider sat down beside her as she drank more hard cider she said the pumpkin cupcakes always made her much wider.

When the cow jumped over the moon it dropped some cow plops a little too soon. All the 'woke' astronomers. sent out an All-Points Bulletin, letting folks know there would be BS bull shooting meteor shower storms on the way. They advised staying inside or if you go out wear a hat night and day to avoid the drops of spray.

Trump faces more legal peril in Georgia over his alleged efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 election and from a federal probe over the election and the retention of classified documents. Other civil cases await, too.

This country is dangerously divided, perhaps at levels not seen since the Civil War. The Trump indictment and ongoing investigations into other allegations of wrongdoing by him risk an even wider split. Americans now know that violence can erupt, or be summoned, as on Jan. 6, 2021.

This could also be a moment when Americans pull themselves, and the country, back from the brink by respecting the process and the institutions that make this country, however flawed, forever filled with promise.

Restraint, not recklessness, is in order, and citizens should not hesitate to tell their elected representatives that's what they expect from them, too.

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### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Making a travesty out of securing energy security

This refers to the March 24, 2023, Manila Standard article by Mr. Ernesto M. Hilario titled "Are we moving closer to energy security?" (<https://manilastandard.net/opinion/314316361/are-we-moving-closer-to-energy-security.html>). Nicely written in its optimism on Department of Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla's actions and excellently misleading. The article would have benefitted from some basic research on relevant laws and historical facts.

Mr. Lotilla's actions are in direct contradiction to the type of energy security envisioned by the late President Ferdinand Marcos Sr. as expressed in his PD 87, which still subsists, and which created the PNOC in response to the oil crisis in the '70s. What Mr. Lotilla has done is to simply follow through on the betrayal of the interests of the people started by his predecessor, Mr. Cusi. These two, who should be notoriously remembered in the Philippine nation's history, gave away the nation's gas assets' ready profits of some PhP 100 million per day to Mr. Razon and Mr. Uy, respectively. These two tycoons, referred to by Mr. Hilario in his article as "competent private partners," have never seen an oil drilling rig nor a drop of oil or a whiff of gas come out of the ground, nor did their previous or immediate past business histories indicate any competence in the energy industry.

The mandate of DOE for the country is ensuring energy sufficiency and security. Malampaya is the biggest indigenous source of gas for the country. So how did Mr. Lotilla and Mr. Cusi manage to lose or kick out Shell and Chevron, two of the largest and most competent IOCs, and put in their stead Mr. Razon's Prime and Mr. Uy's Udena? The two latter companies, again, referred to by Mr. Hilario as "competent" private partners, have no prior experience in oil and gas exploration and production. Or if the IOCs did kick themselves out of Malampaya, why not PNOC? No amount of publicity and passionate but lame justifications in the media from Mr. Lotilla could hide the fact that Malampaya is the very first foray of

Mr. Razon's Prime in the oil and gas exploration and production business, whose graveyard is littered with the bones of incompetent first-timers. But in this sweetheart arrangement, Mr. Razon gets to feed on the carcass of the people getting screwed another time. What a perverse sense of energy security!

With Mr. Lotilla, and Mr. Cusi before him, disregarding the law and in effectively squeezing out legitimate and competent IOCs like Shell and Chevron, no legitimate and capacitous IOCs would now ever dare to consider investing in oil exploration and production in the country, severely hampering our ability to finally ensure our own energy security. And it is doubtful if Mr. Lotilla, who has zero experience in the oil business, even realizes this. And we have zero confidence Mr. Lotilla can shepherd the country towards what Mr. Hilario says in his title—"moving closer to energy security." More like farther and farther away and much more!

**Dr. Celia Lamkin**

*Global chair and founder,*

*National Youth Movement for the West Philippine Sea*

### FOLLOW

From Page 20

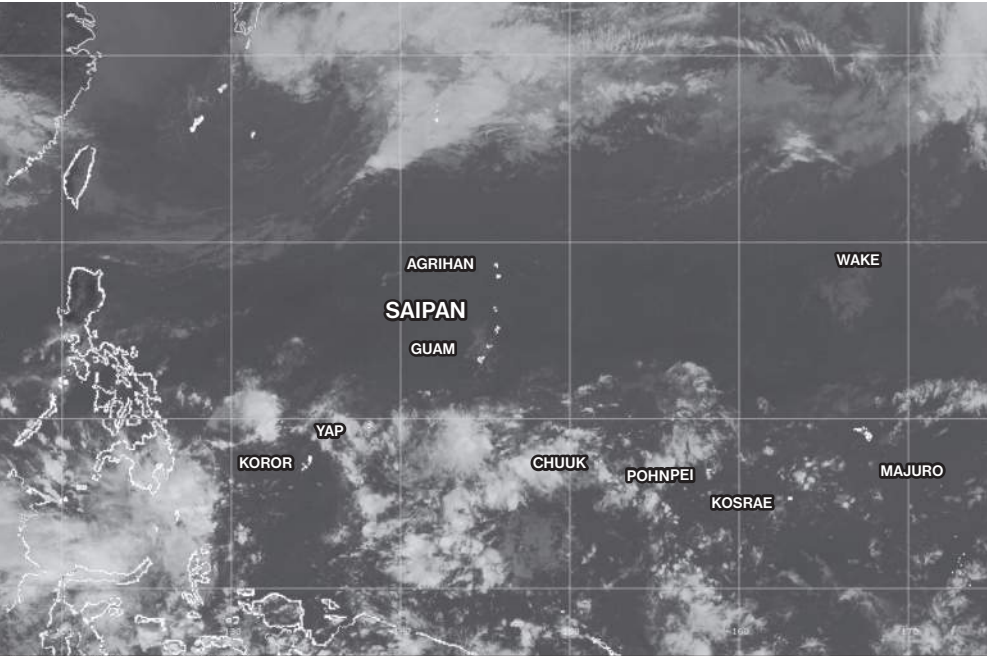
defining document suggests anyone—especially those entrusted to preserve the law—is above it. Those considering the indictment a political act should realize that not charging Trump because he served as president would be a more significant mistake. The U.S. is a country of laws. It should uphold them, even if potential defendants are ex-presidents, presidential candidates or, as in Trump's case, both.

The Manhattan case may not be the last legal challenge for Trump, and what's coming next could be more critical for our democracy.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Isolated showers. Partly cloudy		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny	
86°	77°	85°	77°	86°	77°	86°	77°	88°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



**PICTURE TIME: 8:36 AM, SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2023**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery showed only a few showers over the Marianas this morning. East trade-winds prevail over the local area.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	87° / 78°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:11 AM	6:29 PM
Tuesday	6:10 AM	6:29 PM
Wednesday	6:10 AM	6:29 PM
Thursday	6:09 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:18 AM	4:10 PM
Tuesday	-	4:54 AM	4:58 PM
Wednesday	-	5:29 AM	5:46 PM
Thursday	-	6:03 AM	6:35 PM
Friday	-	6:40 AM	7:27 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	69° / 63°	
Beijing	Cloudy	66° / 50°	
Hong Kong	Showers	74° / 72°	
Honolulu	Showers	81° / 72°	
London	Rain	53° / 47°	
Los Angeles	Showers	59° / 46°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	94° / 77°	
Melbourne	Showers	66° / 52°	
Miami	Showers	78° / 73°	
New York	Sunny	52° / 38°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	71° / 49°	
Paris	Showers/Wind	59° / 50°	
Busan	Sunny/Wind	64° / 54°	
Rome	Cloudy	66° / 53°	
Salem	Sunny	75° / 53°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	56° / 43°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	79° / 50°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	62° / 45°	
Washington, DC	Sunny	57° / 41°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
6:48 AM	High Tide	1.71	
12:38 PM	Low Tide	0.86	
5:59 PM	High Tide	1.64	
-	-	-	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2023							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:30AM	7:25AM	Daily	PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily	UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
				UA189	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam	UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
				UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	6:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW9308	3:50AM	7:20AM	4, 7	TW307	8:45PM	2:15AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily	TW9307	9:20PM	2:50AM+1	3, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.									
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022									
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY		
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily		
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun		
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri		
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily		
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA					
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY		
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri		
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY		
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily		
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily		
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily		
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily		
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily		
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily		
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily		

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# Report: SS trust funds expected to be depleted by 2033

The Social Security Board of Trustees released Friday its annual report on the financial status of the Social Security Trust Funds. The combined asset reserves of the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance trust funds are projected to become depleted in 2033, one year sooner than last year’s estimate, with 77% of benefits payable at that time. The DI Trust Fund asset reserves are not projected to become depleted during the 75-year projection period.

In the 2023 annual report to Congress, the trustees announced:

■ The asset reserves of the combined OASI and DI Trust Funds declined by \$22 billion in 2022 to a total of \$2.830 trillion.

■ The total annual cost of the program is projected to exceed total annual income in 2023 and remain higher throughout the 75-year projection period. Total cost began to be higher than total income in 2021. Social Security’s cost has exceeded its non-interest income since 2010.

■ The year when the combined trust fund reserves are projected to become depleted, if Congress does not act before then, is 2034. At that time, there would be sufficient income coming in to pay 80% of scheduled benefits.

“The trustees continue to recommend that Congress address the projected trust fund shortfalls in a timely fashion to phase in necessary changes gradually,” said Kilolo Kijakazi, acting commissioner of Social Security. “Social Security will continue to play a critical role in the lives of 67 million beneficiaries and 180 million workers and their families during 2023. With informed discussion, creative thinking, and timely legislative action, Social Security can continue to protect future generations.”

Other highlights of the trustees report include:

■ Total income, including interest, to the combined OASI and DI Trust Funds amounted to \$1.222 trillion in 2022. (\$1.107 trillion from net payroll tax contributions, \$49 billion from taxation of benefits, and \$66 billion in interest)

■ Total expenditures from the combined OASI and DI Trust Funds amounted to \$1.244 trillion in 2022.

■ Social Security paid benefits of \$1.232 trillion in calendar year 2022. There were about 66 million beneficiaries at the end of the calendar year.

■ The projected actuarial deficit over the 75-year long-range period is 3.61 percent of taxable payroll—higher than the 3.42 percent projected in last year’s report.

■ During 2022, an estimated 181 million people had earnings covered by Social Security and paid payroll taxes.

■ The cost of \$6.7 billion to administer the Social Security program in 2022 was a very low 0.5% of total expenditures.

■ The combined trust fund asset reserves earned interest at an effective annual rate of 2.4% in 2022.

The board of trustees usually comprises six members. Four serve by virtue of their positions with the federal government: Janet Yellen, secretary of the Treasury and managing trustee; Kilolo Kijakazi, acting commissioner of Social Security; Xavier Becerra, secretary of Health and Human Services; and Julie Su, acting secretary of Labor. The two public trustee positions are currently vacant.

View the 2023 Trustees Report at [www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/TR/2023/](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/TR/2023/). **(SSA)**


# Bridge Capital summons local artists to contest

Bridge Capital LLC is inviting content creators to unleash their inner-artists and submit their masterpieces for the organization’s 10th annual art competition. The competition is receiving entries until April 6, 2023.

With cash prizes totaling up to \$15,000, the grand prize winner will take home \$2,000. There will also be a Governor’s Choice awardee, and a Community Choice awardee, with each one receiving \$1,000.

The competition’s art categories include painting and drawing, photography, and open category. There will be three divisions: the 11-year-old-and under division, a 12-17-year-old division, and a division for all other ages.

Entries are to be submitted at the Bridge Capital building on Micro Beach Road in Garapan. The office building is open Monday to Friday from 8am until 5pm. For more information or to make an inquiry, email [events@bccnmi.com](mailto:events@bccnmi.com), or visit [cnmiamiart.com](http://cnmiamiart.com). You can also contact them via phone at 670-322-2222. **(Chrystal Marino)**



**COMMONWEALTH JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**  
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Website: [www.nmijudiciary.com](http://www.nmijudiciary.com)

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

**DEPUTY CLERK I**  
Announcement # JVA23-015  
Office of the Clerk of Court  
Superior Court  
SAIPAN

**DUTIES:** This position is under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Clerk of Court or his/her designee. The employee performs work in accordance with established policies, practices, and court procedures. The following are required duties:

- Receives, reviews, and records documents filed for hearings;
- Provides data entry of pleadings onto the court's case management system;
- Provides daily updates of pleadings and other caseload information for the assigned judge through the court's automated processes, including, but not limited to, the document imaging and online filing system;
- Assesses fines, receives and accounts for monies, issues receipts, prepares deposit slips and provides disbursements per court order or requests from customer service window;
- Prepares and maintains physical and electronic file folders for court cases, including tracking of all pleadings associated with individual cases files;
- Serves as a courtroom clerk when court hearings are in session, including, but not limited to, swearing in of witnesses, logging of all admitted exhibits, tracking all phases of a hearing on an index sheet for the recording counter, operating the electronic recording equipment, and providing continuous monitoring of the recording equipment to ensure the integrity of the record; and,
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

**QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:** Must have a high school diploma or equivalent;

Must have a minimum of three (3) years related work experience. There is a strong preference for those with work experience in the legal field or for those with a Bachelor's Degree.

Must have the ability to maintain and control sensitive and confidential information, maintain records professionally, and uphold office policies. Must be proficient with the use of general office software including but not limited to Microsoft Word and Excel. Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and be operate to operate a court vehicle.

Candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Must have a valid drivers' license and operate a court vehicle. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment. "Illegal drug" means a substance whose use or possession is controlled by federal law but that is not being used or possessed under the supervision of a licensed health care professional. (Controlled substances are listed in Schedules IV of 21 C.F.R. Part 1308.)

Education completed in foreign colleges or universities may be used to meet the job qualification requirements if the applicant can show that foreign education is comparable to education received in accredited educational institutions in the United States.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide such evidence when applying for Judiciary jobs. Education received in foreign colleges or universities will be considered if the candidate submits an evaluation of the coursework from: (a) an accredited U.S. college or university; or (b) a private professional organization specializing in interpretation of foreign educational credentials.<sup>1</sup>

**COMPENSATION AND TENURE:** This is an ungraded position appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary range will be \$20,485 - \$23,625 annually.

**INTERESTED PERSONS** Application forms are available at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Kotten Tinian and Centron Hustisia in Rota during normal business hours except on weekends and holidays. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:


NMI Judiciary  
Human Resources  
Guma' Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice  
P.O. Box 502165  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel. (670) 236-9818  
Cell. (670) 783-8592  
[hr.judiciary@NMJjudiciary.gov](mailto:hr.judiciary@NMJjudiciary.gov)

This job announcement will remain open until filled and can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.nmijudiciary.gov>

The Judiciary reserves the right to rescind or cancel this JVA at any time without notice.

**THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.**

<sup>1</sup> The following organizations evaluate foreign educational credentials for employment and other purposes. All operate on a fee based on the extent of the education to be evaluated; applicants shall bear the cost of evaluation.  
(a) Credentials Evaluation Service P.O. Box 24679 Los Angeles, CA 90024  
(b) Education Equivalency Evaluation World Education Services P.O. Box 745 Old Chelsea Station New York, NY 10011  
(c) Education Credential Evaluators, Inc. P.O. Box 17499 Milwaukee, WI 53217  
(d) International Consultants of Delaware, Inc. 914 Pickett Lane Newark, DE 19711 (e) Foundation for International Services, Inc. P.O. Box 230278 Portland, OR 97223.  
While the Judiciary offer these addresses as information to applicants who request assistance in obtaining an evaluation education, these services are not preferred over others which may exist.  
of foreign



**COMMONWEALTH JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**  
Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice  
P.O. Box 502165 • Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone (670) 236-9700/9800 • Facsimile: (670) 236-9702  
Website: [www.nmijudiciary.com](http://www.nmijudiciary.com)

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

**DEPUTY CLERK II**  
for  
Drug Court  
Announcement # JVA23-016

**DUTIES:** The successful candidate will work under the Presiding Judge and under the direct supervision of the Superior Court Clerk of Court on Saipan. The employee will perform work with wide latitude for the exercise of independent judgment and taking action in accordance with established policies, practices and court procedures. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Receive, review and record documents filed for hearing;
- Review documents presented by counsels and Drug Court Staff for accuracy, proper form, and conformance with court rules and decisions for approval and signature by judges;
- Track cases taken under advisement, ensure updates of same and provide periodic reports to the Clerk of Court and effected judges;
- Set the court calendar and adjust the same to maximize courtroom time and meet unusual situations;
- Prepare bench warrants, subpoenas, summonses and other related documents for issuance;
- Assess fines, receive and account for monies, issues receipts, prepare deposit slips, and makedisbursements when ordered or directed;
- Interpret and disseminate information, law, policies, and procedures governing the hearing of cases;
- Update and maintain case dockets, judgment books and case files;
- Maintain a listing of all drug court cases and provide data for reporting purposes;
- Assist with the certification of records in cases appealed to the CNMI Supreme Court;
- Serve as a courtroom clerk for the drug court, which includes but is not limited to the following: ensuring courtroom readiness for proceedings, attending court sessions, administering oaths to witnesses, operating electronic recording equipment, listing all relevant portions of proceedings on a log, receiving, marking and assuming responsibility of all introduced evidence, and performing translation during proceedings;
- Serve as a member of the CNMI Drug Court Team; attend staffing and trainings, maintain confidentiality rules, provide background information for all potential participants, make recommendations at initial and progress staffing, prepares and coordinates execution of orders, and maintain information on case management software.
- Act as a liaison between the Office of the Clerk of Court and the Drug Court Program;
- Perform other related duties as assigned.

**QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:** Candidate should have a high school diploma or equivalent. Should also have a Bachelor's degree in business administration or related field from an accredited university or college; or four years of equivalent work experience; or a combination equivalent of relevant education and experience; AND

A minimum of four (4) years of experience in legal, law enforcement, court administrative or related work.

Must have the ability to maintain and control sensitive and confidential information, maintain records professionally, and uphold office policies. Must be proficient with the use of general office software including but not limited to Microsoft Word and Excel.

Candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Must have a valid drivers' license and operate a court vehicle. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment. "Illegal drug" means a substance whose use or possession is controlled by federal law but that is not being used or possessed under the supervision of a licensed health care professional. (Controlled substances are listed in Schedules IV of 21 C.F.R. Part 1308.)

Education completed in foreign colleges or universities may be used to meet the job qualification requirements if the applicant can show that foreign education is comparable to education received in accredited educational institutions in the United States.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide such evidence when applying for Judiciary jobs. Education received in foreign colleges or universities will be considered if the candidate submits an evaluation of the coursework from: (a) an accredited U.S. college or university; or (b) a private professional organization specializing in interpretation of foreign educational credentials.<sup>1</sup>

**COMPENSATION AND TENURE:** This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. Salary range will be \$23,000 - \$25,000 annually.

**INTERESTED PERSONS** Application forms are available at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Kotten Tinian and Centron Hustisia in Rota during normal business hours except on weekends and holidays. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

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This job announcement will remain open until filled and can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.nmijudiciary.com>

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(d) International Consultants of Delaware, Inc. 914 Pickett Lane Newark, DE 19711 (e) Foundation for International Services, Inc. P.O. Box 230278 Portland, OR 97223.  
While the Judiciary offer these addresses as information to applicants who request assistance in obtaining an evaluation education, these services are not preferred over others which may exist.



# Business

## Hyatt, DCCA conclude Women's History Month celebration

For the whole month of March, Hyatt Regency Saipan and the CNMI Department of Community & Cultural Affairs celebrated Women's History Month by championing local female artists. These artists are considered torch bearers for all women who preserve culture and traditions of the CNMI through art.

There was a gathering of gratitude last Friday where Hyatt and DCCA agreed to have more collaborations in the future.

Hyatt Regency general manager Simon Graf was happy about the partnership and reiterated that the local community is a fundamental part of Hyatt's business. He said that Hyatt has a deep relationship with the local community and respects the island's history. "This is something that we value and we plan to continue this relationship with the Arts Council of DCCA to promote culture and preserve the local artists' skillset," he said.

"We respect the islands' history and embrace local culture... As a member of this community we are happy to give this kind of platform not only for the community to view, but also for tourists and guests around the world," he added.

The exhibit featured arts and crafts and the artists also gave demos on how to make a mwar mwar (flower crown), bead necklaces, flower trinkets, etc. It ran from Thursday to Sunday 10am to 3pm at the Hyatt lobby for the entire month of March.

Arts Council Folk Arts coordinator Sepe Glorianna Teura said that more than selling, she and the artists treated the month-long event as a great experience. "We are all about sharing our culture to tourists and what we have served as a reminder to other local residents that our culture is here and alive. We especially like the people who approach the artists and talk to them. Our artists were often asked to share their knowledge and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Simon Graf and Arts Council Folk Arts coordinator Sepe Glorianna Teura are joined by female local artists and Hyatt management and employees to commemorate the last day of Women's History Month last Friday.

teach their techniques which they gladly did," she said.

Teura said that with the cancellation of the Flame Tree Festival set in April, the

Arts Council plans to have several events to give all local artists more exposure. "We have events lined up in different venues on the island. Chamorro and Carolinian cultures are two different cultures living together on one small rock. Each culture has its unique qualities to represent as a group of people. We seldom find a place that has two different cultures to represent who they are. That is why we thank Hyatt for celebrating Women's History Month featuring our female artists. They are our number one supporter of local arts," she added. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Hyatt Regency general manager Simon Graf, Arts Council Folk Arts coordinator Sepe Glorianna Teura, Hyatt Marketing & Communications manager Bea O'Malley, and Hyatt Food & Beverage director Hani Min discuss possibilities of future collaborations.

IN MEMORY OF

# †Yvette Sablan Cruz Iguel

LOVINGLY KNOWN AS "BEBANG"

BORN TO LIFE ON OCTOBER 21, 1984  
CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE ON MARCH 29, 2023

*In her new life, Yvette will be met at the gates of Heaven by her:*

Father: † Herman Santos Cruz  
Mother-In-Law: † Escolastica I. Taitano-Iguel  
Reared Mother-In-Law: † Teresa Igitol Taitano

*Her loving memories will forever live in the hearts of her:*

Husband: Jose "Ping" Benito Taitano Iguel  
Children: Therese Marie C. Iguel/Reid Teregeyo, Noah Jose, Herman Clayton

Mother: Eleanor Sablan Cruz  
Siblings & In-Laws: Yvonne/Rodney Camacho, Children & Grandchildren, Gordon/Marlyn Cruz & Children, Geoffrey/Kiyannah Cruz & Children, Yuline/Kelvin Fitia & Child, Gary/Doris Cruz & Children, Yolanda/Luis Macaranas & Children

Father-In-Law: Sylvestre Ilo Iguel  
Aunt-In-Law: Edwina Igitol Taitano  
Brothers & Sisters In-Law: John D. Iguel/Tanya Concepcion & Children, Aurelia Marie T. Iguel/Izaiah Falig & Children, Weena Gwendolyn T. Iguel/Ryan Sablan

*Numerous nephews, nieces, cousins, aunts, uncles, godchildren, and friends will miss her dearly.*

**Daily mass intentions are offered at Kristo Rai Church, Garapan at 6 a.m. except Wednesday at 6 p.m. and Saturday at 5 p.m. Also offered at 6 p.m. nightly Thursday-Saturday, and 8 a.m. on Sunday at Bithen Delos Remedios Church, Tanapag.**

**Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on April 12, 2023, at 10 a.m. at Mount Carmel Cathedral, followed by interment services at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.**

*Your thoughts, prayers, and words of comfort are sincerely appreciated. Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghilissou, and Thank You.*

**JOSE T. IGUEL & CHILDREN  
†HERMAN AND ELEANOR CRUZ, CHILDREN, AND FAMILIES  
SYLVESTRE AND ESCOLASTICA IGUEL, CHILDREN, AND FAMILIES**

## TikTok attorney: China can't get US data under plan

**SAULSALITO, Calif.** (AP)—Under intense scrutiny from Washington that could lead to a potential ban, the top attorney for TikTok and its Chinese parent company ByteDance defended the social media platform's plan to safeguard U.S. user data from China.

"The basic approach that we're following is to make it physically impossible for any government, including the Chinese government, to get access to U.S. user data," said general counsel Erich Andersen during a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press at a cybersecurity conference in Sausalito, California, on Friday sponsored by the Hewlett Foundation and Aspen Digital and featuring top government officials, tech executives and journalists.

ByteDance will continue to develop its new app called Lemon8, Andersen said.

"We're obviously going to do our best with the

Lemon8 app to comply with U.S. law and to make sure we do the right thing here," Andersen said, referring to the new social app developed by ByteDance that resembles Instagram and Pinterest. "But I think we got a long way to go with that application—it's pretty much a startup phase."

ByteDance's most known app, TikTok, is under intense scrutiny over concerns it could hand over user data to the Chinese government or push pro-Beijing propaganda and misinformation on its behalf. Lemon8 was introduced across app stores in Japan in April 2020 and has been rolled out in more countries since then. It's available for download in the U.S. and could face similar scrutiny to TikTok.

Leaders at the FBI, CIA and officials at other government agencies have warned that ByteDance could be forced to give user data—such as browsing history, IP addresses and biometric identifiers—to

Beijing under a 2017 law that compels companies to cooperate with the government for matters involving China's national security. Another Chinese law, implemented in 2014, has similar mandates.

To assuage concerns from U.S. officials, TikTok has been emphasizing a \$1.5 billion proposal, called Project Texas, to store all U.S. user data on servers owned and maintained by the software giant Oracle. Under the plan, access to U.S. data would be managed by U.S. employees through a separate entity called TikTok U.S. Data Security, which is run independently of ByteDance and monitored by outside observers.

Some lawmakers have said that's not enough. But despite skepticism about the project, TikTok says it is moving forward anyway.

"We're investing in a system where people don't have to believe the Chinese government and they don't have to believe us," Andersen said.



# Nation

## At least 26 dead after tornadoes rake US Midwest, South

**WYNNE, Ark. (AP)**—Storms that dropped possibly dozens of tornadoes killed at least 26 people in small towns and big cities across the South and Midwest, tearing a path through the Arkansas capital, collapsing the roof of a packed concert venue in Illinois and stunning people throughout the region Saturday with the damage's scope.

Confirmed or suspected tornadoes in at least eight states destroyed homes and businesses, splintered trees and laid waste to neighborhoods across a broad swath of the country. The dead included at least nine in one Tennessee county, four in the small town of Wynne, Arkansas, three in Sullivan, Indiana, and four in Illinois.

Other deaths from the storms that hit Friday night into Saturday were reported in Alabama and Mis-

issippi, along with one near Little Rock, Arkansas, where city officials said more than 2,600 buildings were in a tornado's path.

Residents of Wynne, a community of about 8,000 people 50 miles (80 kilometers) west of Memphis, Tennessee, woke Saturday to find the high school's roof shredded and its windows blown out. Huge trees lay on the ground, their stumps reduced to nubs. Broken walls, windows and roofs pocked homes and businesses.

Debris lay scattered inside the shells of homes and on lawns: clothing, insulation, toys, splintered furniture, a pickup truck with its windows shattered.

Ashley Macmillan said she, her husband and their children huddled with their dogs in a small bathroom as a tornado passed, "praying and saying goodbye to each

other, because we thought we were dead." A falling tree seriously damaged their home, but they were unhurt.

"We could feel the house shaking, we could hear loud noises, dishes rattling. And then it just got calm," she said.

Recovery was already underway, with workers using chainsaws and bulldozers to clear the area and utility crews restoring power.

Nine people died in Tennessee's McNairy County, east of Memphis, according to Patrick Sheehan, director the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency.

"The majority of the damage has been done to homes and residential areas," said David Leckner, the mayor of Adamsville.

Gov. Bill Lee drove to the county Saturday to tour the destruction and comfort residents. He said the storm

capped the "worst" week of his time as governor, coming days after a school shooting in Nashville that killed six people including a family friend whose funeral he and his wife, Maria, attended earlier in the day.

"It's terrible what has happened in this community, this county, this state," Lee said. "But it looks like your community has done what Tennes-

sean communities do, and that is rally and respond."

Jeffrey Day said he called his daughter after seeing on the news that their community of Adamsville was being hit. Huddled in a closet with her 2-year-old son as the storm passed over, she answered the phone screaming.

"She kept asking me, 'What do I do, daddy?'" Day said, tearing up. "I didn't know what to say."

After the storm passed, his daughter crawled out of her destroyed home and over barbed wire and drove to nearby family. On Saturday evening, baby clothes were still strewn about the site.

In Memphis, police spokesman Christopher Williams said via email late Saturday that there were three deaths believed to be weather-related: two children and an adult who died when a tree fell on a house.

## Biden and his 2024 campaign: Waiting for some big decisions

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—President Joe Biden has all but announced he's running for reelection, but key questions about the 2024 campaign are unresolved: Who will manage it? Where will it be based? When will he finally make it official?

Advisers have long said he planned to wait until after March, when the year's first fundraising period wraps up. That was an effort to help manage expectations because many donors who gave generously to Democratic causes during last fall's elections were looking for a break.

But an announcement isn't

imminent even now, aides insist, and probably won't come until at least after Biden returns from an expected trip to Ireland in mid-April.

Working on his own timeline could counter Biden's low approval ratings and questions about his age—the 80-year-old would turn 86 before the end of a second term. It also means Biden won't be hurried by pressure from former President Donald Trump, who's already announced his 2024 campaign, or other top Republicans who may enter the race, including Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis or former Vice President Mike Pence.

"He's earned the luxury of making the timetable," said Brad Bannon, a Democratic strategist in Washington. "The longer he can keep this thing focused on his duties in the White House, and less about the campaign back-and-forth, the better off he's going to be."

That said, Biden aides are mindful that Trump has been indicted for his role in the payment of hush money to a porn actor, and they say Biden will look to time his announcement to a point when he won't share the political spotlight with the man he beat in the 2020 election.

## Trump indictment ends decades of perceived invincibility

**NEW YORK (AP)**—When Donald Trump steps before a judge this coming week to be arraigned in a New York courtroom, it will not only mark the first time a former U.S. president has faced criminal charges. It will also be a reckoning for a man long nicknamed "Teflon Don," who until now has managed to skirt serious legal jeopardy despite 40 years of legal scrutiny.

Trump, who is the early front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination, is expected to turn himself in Tuesday. He faces charges including at least one felony offense related to hush money payments to women during his 2016 campaign. Like any other person facing trial, he will be booked, fingerprinted and photographed before being given the chance to enter a plea.

The spectacle that is sure to unfold will mark an unprecedented moment in American history that will demonstrate once again how dramatically Trump—who already held the distinction of being the first president to be impeached twice—has upended democratic norms. But on a personal level, the indictment pierces the cloak of invincibility that seemed to follow Trump through his decades in business and in politics, as he faced allegations of fraud, collusion and sexual misconduct.

"Boy, after all this time it's a bit of a shock," Trump biographer Michael D'Antonio said of the indictment. "You know I always thought of him as the Gingerbread Man, shouting, 'You can't catch

me!' as he ran away."

"Given his track record," he said, "I had trouble imagining he would ever be held accountable."

"These are not things that Donald Trump ever thought in his entire life, nor I, for that matter, that he would ever be confronted with," Michael Cohen, Trump's longtime fixer and a key witness in the case who served jail time for the payments, told CNN.

Of course, some of the celebration by Trump's detractors may be premature. Trump could seek to have a judge quickly dismiss the case. Even if it moves forward, there's no guarantee of conviction. Intensifying investigations in Atlanta and Washington are seen as potentially more serious legal threats.

Still, Trump and his team were caught by surprise when word of the New York indictment broke Thursday evening, following news reports that the grand jury hearing the case was set for a weeklong hiatus. As the deliberations dragged on, some in Trump's orbit had become convinced that the case had stalled and that charges might never be brought. That included Trump lawyer Joe Tacopina, who said Friday morning he had hoped the "rule of law would prevail."

Trump, he said on the "Today" show, was "initially was shocked" by news of the charges, but quickly pivoted to his usual pushback playbook.

"After he got over that," he said, Trump "put a notch on his belt and he decided we have to fight now. And he got into a typical Donald Trump

posture where he's ready to be combative on something that he believes is an injustice. ... I think he's now in the posture that he's ready to fight this."

In the meantime, Trump and his team have tried to use the news to his advantage, hoping to energize his loyal base by painting the investigation as part of a larger plot to derail his candidacy.

Already, the charges have been a boon to his struggling fundraising. The campaign announced Friday evening that it had raised over \$4 million in the 24 hours after the indictment became public, far smashing its previous record after the FBI search of Trump's Mar-a-Lago club.

More than 25% of donations, according to the campaign, came from first-time donors. The average contribution: \$34.

His campaign also continued to blast out supportive statements from dozens of top Republicans who have rallied behind Trump, including several of his declared and likely challengers, underscoring his continued hold on the party.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, in a speech Saturday to conservatives meeting in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, accused the Democratic prosecutor in New York, Alvin Bragg, of weaponizing the law "for political purposes" in bringing a case against "a former president." DeSantis said the district attorney had indicted "a former president on misdemeanor offenses" that he was "straining to try to convert into felonies."



### Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Statewide Independent Living Council

"Yes I Can!"

P.O. BOX 501521, SAIPAN, MP 96950  
TEL: (670) 322-6537/8 FAX: (670) 322-6536  
E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2023 Second General Membership Meeting on Friday, April 14, 2023 at 11:00 am at the Aqua Resort Club, Paluma Room. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

### AGENDA


- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda of April 14, 2023
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes of the FY 2023 Statewide Independent Living Council First General Membership meeting of December 15, 2022
- V. Reports
  - a. SILC Chairperson
  - b. CLI Executive Director
  - c. OVR Executive Director
- VI. New Business
  - a. Removal of Sergeant-At-Arms position
  - b. SILC 101 Training
  - c. State Plan for Independent Living extension to FY2024
- VII. Action Items
  - a. Election of Fiscal Officer
  - b. Ratification and approval of Revised SILC By-Laws
- VIII. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- IX. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters are asked to call Elvira Seman at 322-6537(voice) or email vai@ovrgov.net for necessary arrangements no later than the end of the business day of Monday, April 10, 2022

/s/ **Nicolas DLC. Torres**  
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by a grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Title VI-B Independent Living Services, ACL Grant.





**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**  
**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**

Tels: (670) 234-6866  
234-9447  
234-7689  
234-7670  
Fax: (670) 234-9021

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

**COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS**

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation  
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

**REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS**

On or after April 10, 2023, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Honolulu Field Office, for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383), as amended, to undertake the following projects and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Renovation of Tinian Little League Baseball Field	To inspire the younger generation to get out and engage with one another and help the younger generations in the community to become more physically active.	San, Jose Tinian	\$330,000.00

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Central Office in Garapan, Saipan and may be examined or copied during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI or Austerity Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the projects may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 or direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan. All comments received by **April 10, 2023, 4:30 p.m.**, will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

**RELEASE OF FUNDS**

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD Honolulu Field Office that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD Honolulu Field Office acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

**OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS**

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD Honolulu Field Office will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of **fifteen (15) days** following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Honolulu Field Office by email to CPD Honolulu Field Office: CPDHonolulu@hud.gov and CPD\_COVID-190EE-HNL@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/  
**Arnold I. Palacios**  
Governor, CNMI

# Health and Wellness

## Tips on choosing the right running shoes

Congratulations on setting a goal to run a long-distance race. You’ve just joined a group of more than 60 million people in the U.S. who participate in organized runs and races. Running doesn’t require much gear, but well-fitting, running-specific shoes are a must.

“Someone training for a long-distance run such as a marathon can log 800 or more miles before a race,” says Stephanie Kvas, D.P.M., a Mayo Clinic Health System podiatrist. “With your feet enduring this kind of mileage, it’s essential to choose the appropriate footwear to maintain the health of your feet and prevent injury.”

Here are a few tips for choosing the right running shoes for you:

**Shop in the evening**  
Throughout the day, your feet retain fluid, causing them to swell. For this reason, it’s best to go shoe shopping late in the day or evening, when swelling is at its maximum. This increases the likelihood of choosing a fit that’s comfortable throughout the day.

**Check out specialty shoe stores**  
Specialty shoe stores offer valuable services, including in-store fittings and measurement, unique styles, extended sizes, shoes with varying levels of cushion and special inserts. Experienced store associates help customers determine appropriate shoe size, style and support to maximize comfort and functionality.

Since you’re starting a running program, ask about shoes designed especially for road running. These shoes tend to have flatter, smoother soles that create a consistent surface for running on roads, sidewalks, tracks and treadmills.

**Not all brands are equal**  
Shoe size can slightly vary from brand to brand. Don’t be afraid to venture up or down a half or full size if you’re trying a new brand or a new style from a familiar brand.

**Choose the right size and fit**  
More than two-thirds of the population has one foot that’s larger than the other. This rarely exceeds one-half size. However, this should be considered when buying new shoes.

Always choose your size based on the fit of the larger foot, since the fit of the smaller foot can be easily adjusted by adding an insert or arch support. That’s why it’s important to try on both shoes. If a shoe fits properly, there should be a half-inch of space between your longest toe and the front of the shoe, leaving plenty of room to wiggle your toes.

When trying on shoes, bring your running socks and any custom orthotics.

**Accommodate deformities**  
Common foot deformities, including bunions and hammer-toes, can pose challenges when it comes to footwear. Luckily, many brands offer shoes that are available with extra width and depth to accommodate these deformities, and prevent painful corns and calluses from developing. Specialty shoe stores also may provide stretching to accommodate a deformity.

**Lace shoes correctly**  
How you lace your shoes can improve the fit. To help lock your heel in place, try the runner’s loop. To relieve pressure points on the top of your foot, window or box lacing might work best for you.

**Take shoes for a test spin**  
Take a stroll around the store, paying attention to any rubbing or discomfort as you stand, walk or jog in place. If a shoe is uncomfortable in the store, it likely will be uncomfortable after wearing it for a month or two. Running shoes that feel right in the store shouldn’t need to be broken in.

**Know when to buy a new pair**  
Your shoes are going to get a workout as you train. In general, a pair of running shoes lasts 400 to 500 miles or three to four months. Keep an eye on the midsoles and outsoles. If they’re compressed or worn, it’s time to buy a new pair.

If you have questions about foot health, talk with your health care professional or schedule an appointment with a podiatrist. Because podiatrists specialize in foot issues, they can provide the best recommendations based on your specific needs. *(Mayo Clinic News Network)*



Running doesn't require much gear, but well-fitting, running-specific shoes are a must.  
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### Healthy Living

## Color-coded nutrients

Healthy diets should contain a variety of brightly colored fruits and vegetables.



**Purple**  
Contains anthocyanin antioxidants that can protect blood vessels



**Red**  
Rich in lycopene that may reduce the risk of cancer



**Orange, yellow, green**  
Rich in beta carotene, other antioxidants

Source: Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry, TNS Photo Service



## Life & Style

# Gwyneth Paltrow gets vindication at ski collision trial

**PARK CITY, Utah (AP)**—Gwyneth Paltrow wasn't to blame for a 2016 collision with a retired optometrist on a beginner run at a posh Utah ski resort during a family vacation, a jury decided Thursday following a live-streamed trial that became a pop culture fixation.

A jury awarded Paltrow \$1—a symbolic amount she asked for in order to show it wasn't about money—and delivered her the vindication she sought when she opted to take it to trial rather than settle out of court.

"I felt that acquiescing to a false claim compromised my integrity," Paltrow said in a statement released by her representatives that she also posted as an Instagram story for her 8.3 million followers. She also thanked the judge and jury for their work.

As Paltrow left court she touched Terry Sanderson's shoulder and told him, "I wish you well," he told reporters outside court. He responded, "Thank you dear."

Paltrow's attorney, Steve Owens, added in a statement he read outside court that "Gwyneth has a history of advocating for what she believes



Gwyneth Paltrow speaks with retired optometrist Terry Sanderson, left, as she walks out of the courtroom following the reading of the verdict in their lawsuit trial, Thursday, March 30, 2023, in Park City, Utah. AP

in—this situation was no different and she will continue to stand up for what is right."

Paltrow, an actor who in recent years has refashioned herself into a celebrity wellness entrepreneur, looked to her attorneys with a pursed lips smile when the judge read the eight-member jury's verdict in the Park City court-

room. She sat intently through two weeks of testimony in what became the biggest celebrity court case since actors Johnny Depp and Amber Heard faced off last year.

After the verdict was read, the judge polled the jury, which was unanimous on the decision. In civil court in Utah, only three-fourths of

jurors need to agree on a verdict. The attorney fees Paltrow asked for in her countersuit were not included in the jury's verdict, leaving the bulk of the final award for the Park City judge to decide.

Addressing reporters after the verdict, Sanderson questioned whether the lawsuit was worth it and said

he believed that people tend to naturally trust celebrities like Paltrow.

"You get some assumed credibility from being a famous person," Sanderson said. "Really, who wants to take on a celebrity?"

The dismissal concludes two weeks of courtroom proceedings that hinged largely on reputation rather than the monetary damages at stake in the case. Paltrow's attorneys described the complaint against her as "utter B.S." and painted the Goop founder-CEO as uniquely vulnerable to unfair, frivolous lawsuits due to her celebrity.

Paltrow took the witness stand during the trial to insist that the collision wasn't her fault, and to describe how she was stunned when she felt "a body pressing against me and a very strange grunting noise."

Throughout the trial, the word "uphill" became synonymous with "guilty," as attorneys focused on a largely unknown skiing code of conduct that stipulates that the skier who is downhill or ahead on the slope has the right of way.

Worldwide audiences followed the celebrity trial as if it were episodic television. Viewers scrutinized both Paltrow and Sanderson's motives while attorneys directed questions to witnesses that often had less to do with the collision and more to do with their client's reputations.

The trial took place in Park City, a resort town known for hosting the annual Sundance Film Festival, where early in her career Paltrow would

appear for the premieres of her movies including 1998's "Sliding Doors," at a time when she was known primarily as an actor, not a lifestyle influencer. Paltrow is also known for her roles in "Shakespeare in Love" and the "Iron Man" movies.

The jury's decision marks a painful court defeat for Sanderson, the man who sued Paltrow for more than \$300,000 over injuries he sustained when they crashed on the ski slope at Deer Valley Resort.

"He never returned home that night as the same man. Terry has tried to get off that mountain but he's really still there," attorney Robert Sykes said during closing arguments.

Both parties blamed the other for the collision. Sanderson, 76, broke four ribs and sustained a concussion after the two tumbled down the slope, with Paltrow landing on top of him.

He filed an amended complaint after an earlier \$3.1 million lawsuit was dismissed. In response, Paltrow countersued for \$1 and attorney fees, a symbolic action that mirrors Taylor Swift's response to a radio host's defamation lawsuit. Swift was awarded \$1 in 2017.

Paltrow's defense team represented Sanderson as an angry, aging and unsympathetic man who had over the years become "obsessed" with his lawsuit against Paltrow. They argued that Paltrow wasn't at fault in the crash and also said, regardless of blame, that Sanderson was overstating the extent of his injuries.

## Kaley Cuoco has 1st child, a daughter, with Tom Pelphrey

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Kaley Cuoco is flying high after giving birth to her first child.

The star of "The Flight Attendant" and "The Big Bang Theory" said on Instagram Saturday that she and fellow actor Tom Pelphrey



Cuoco

are overjoyed and grateful now have a daughter named Matilda Carmine Richie Pelphrey.

"The new light of our lives!" Cuoco posted, along with a series of pictures of the baby, who was born Thursday. "We

for this little miracle."

Cuoco has been married twice before, most recently to equestrian Karl Cook. The two split in 2021. Last year she began dating Pelphrey, and in October they announced they were expecting a child together.

Cuoco, 37, appeared for 12 seasons on the CBS sitcom

"The Big Bang Theory." She has played the title role in "The Flight Attendant" on HBO Max for two seasons, and was nominated for an Emmy for each.

It's also the first child for Pelphrey, 40, who has acted primarily in soaps, including "Guiding Light" and "As The World Turns."

## Husband feels increasingly alone dealing with handicap

**DEAR ABBY:** I am medically retired and have mobility issues, so I'm unable to be active or socialize. I don't have many friends outside my family, so I spend many hours alone at home. My wife is an elementary school teacher. My two youngest children are in high school.

My wife is an excellent teacher, and I appreciate everything she does for our family and her students. When she returns home in the evening, she has to grade papers, create lesson plans and dozens of other things that need preparation. I understand this, but when she's finished, she spends the rest of the evenings or weekends on social media.

Trying to have a conversation with her is almost impossible because she's not listening or interacting with me. I get short "yes" or "no" answers or constant "uh-huh" replies. I've tried talking with her about the fact I feel marginalized, but she just gets angry.

It's not easy being married to a physically handicapped person, I know. Am I being overly sensitive? How do I express to her the loneliness I feel and the longing for a connection with my wife?

**LONELY HUSBAND IN UTAH**

**DEAR LONELY HUSBAND:** It may not be easy. You may need help getting through to her. Tell your wife that you would like to have some marriage counseling

because you feel all alone in this marriage. However, if she refuses, consider some counseling for yourself. Developing other social outlets online, as she appears to be doing, also could be beneficial.

Many communities provide transportation for disabled individuals so they can get out of their homes. Depending upon your physical impairment, you may be interested in exploring what's available in your area.

■■■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm back at work after being a stay-at-home mom for the last decade. My job is in public schooling, and I earn less than \$25,000 a year. My husband works for a Fortune 500 company and earns more than \$120,000 per year. I understand that we have debt, and I'm willing to contribute, but he keeps my paycheck—all of it.

To be honest, even as hard as he works and as much as he takes care of and provides for our family, I am not happy. It's not that I plan to leave, but without my own money, I don't even have an option to plan for the future. How can I convince him to allow me the money I earn, while assuring him that I'll help to pay down our debt?

**WORKING FOR NOTHING IN OHIO**

**DEAR WORKING:** Your husband appears to be deeply insecure and controlling. You are a wife, not an indentured servant. You shouldn't have to ask, beg or be required

## DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



to convince him that you should have money YOU ARE EARNING. Tell him that, and also explain how much of your money you want to put aside in an account of your own. If he refuses, suggest the two of you get mediation from a licensed family therapist. If he refuses to go with you, go alone. You may also want to consult an attorney who specializes in family law about what your rights as a wife are in the state of Ohio. Please don't put it off.

■■■■■

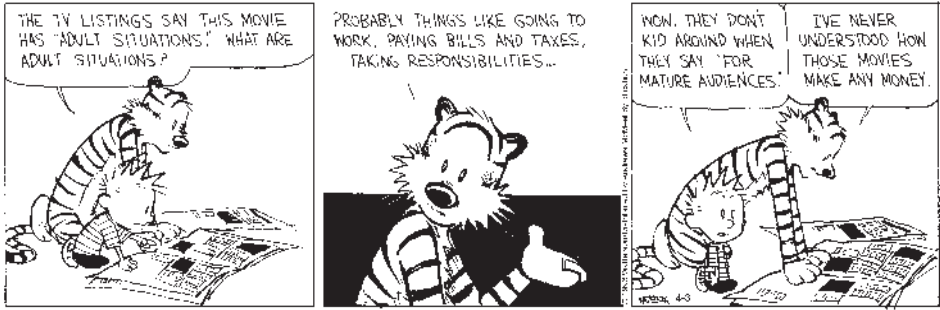
Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



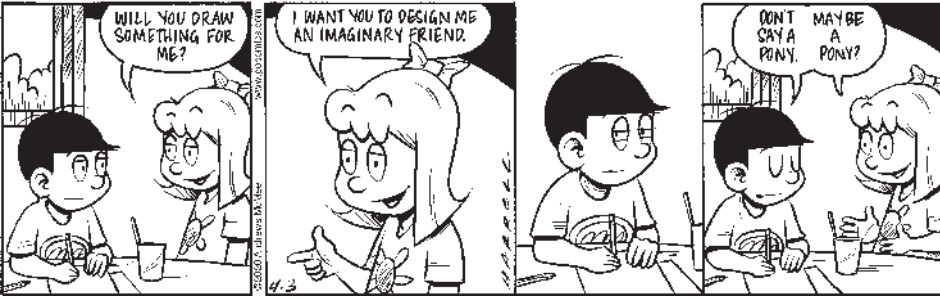
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



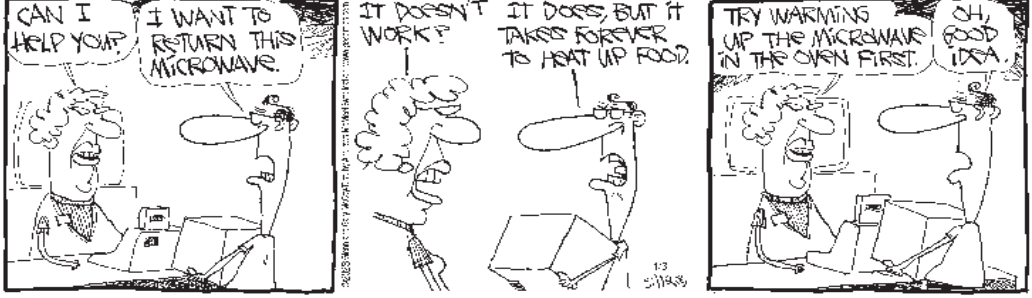
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



### CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 School book fair org.

4 Challenged

9 Congeal

12 Globe

13 Wear down

14 World Cup cheer

15 Baking dishes

17 Employ

18 Part of NATO

19 Titled peers

21 Hooded snakes

24 Flower part

25 Kimono sash

26 Observe

28 Japanese seaport

31 First-place medal

33 Jungfrau, for one

35 Poker variety

36 Tennis great Monica

**DOWN**

1 Soda

2 Prefix with

3 Prez on a penny

4 River formations

5 Disappearing Asian lake

6 Hogwash

7 Idyllic places

8 Explorer

9 Perfect partners

10 Different

11 Golf pegs

16 Standard

20 Porgy's love

21 Gear teeth

22 Basoon's kin

23 Micro-soft co-founder

27 Santa's aide

29 Author Vonnegut

30 Forever and —

32 Profound

34 Funnel-shaped bloom

37 Naps noisily

39 Less timid

42 Arcade pioneer

44 "I — Rock"

45 Animated figure

46 Franc replacer

50 Bank acct. entry

51 Attempt

52 Shoe width

53 Cain, to Eve

**Solution time: 26 mins.**

CCS BUY UNIDID  
HAT EGO SE NE  
IRA TAKES OVER  
N R SNEER  
SEES DS SNAP  
TEA SPEAKS  
STEAM RABAT  
PARROT COT  
FURS AAH S AY  
STREP LE  
OVERTAKES IA  
RASIF SA UNS  
INLAW NET SET

Last Friday's Answer 04/03

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Cobie Smulders, 41; Adam Scott, 50; Eddie Murphy, 62; Alec Baldwin, 65.

**Happy Birthday:** Plan, prepare and execute your intentions with thoughtfulness and style. Make your signature your ability to do things differently, and you'll attract individuals interested in learning and contributing to whatever you pursue. Don't be afraid to live out your dreams and enforce new rules that will help you run your home efficiently. Your numbers are 4, 10, 13, 24, 32, 35, 48.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Finish what you start. Take the initiative; you'll feel refreshed and ready to conquer the world. Revamp how you handle your cash or search for a position that's a better fit, given your qualifications and experience. Self-improvement projects are favored. ★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Eliminate what isn't working for you. Embrace change, new beginnings and what matters most to you. Discipline and hard work will prove you have more admirers than you realize. Accept change, love yourself and what you do, and forge ahead. ★★★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Work alone, tidy up loose ends and create opportunities that focus on using your attributes in a fresh, new manner for the best results. If you let your emotions take over, you'll give your secrets away and others will have a chance to take over. ★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Channel your energy into something concrete. You can accomplish more if you refuse to let others interfere with your decisions or the

direction you choose to take. Be creative, use your imagination and consider what and who bring you peace and joy. ★★★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Review investments. Whether you focus on learning something new or applying your energy and attributes to getting others to see things your way, the difference you make will establish your position. Don't labor over what you cannot change; be brave and move forward. ★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Speak up, follow through with your plans and learn as you go. A change will spark your imagination and help you find the best way to reach your destination of choice. A little romance will brighten your day and encourage personal stability. ★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Don't lose sight of your goal. Pour your heart and soul into whatever brings the highest reward. Discipline and hard work will draw attention and the help you need to finish what you start. Opportunity knocks; don't be too proud to accept help. ★★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Hold on to your beliefs, and make a difference to those who need help. A steady pace, compassion and suggestions will pay off and change how others perceive you. Follow your heart and start a movement. ★★★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Downtime will rejuvenate you and offer insight into how you can improve your life. A hobby or group you join will give you hope and offer an opportunity to make a difference. Let your emotions lead to action and positive change. ★★

### EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Entering a battle with a friend, colleague or relative will leave you feeling empty. Consider the cause and find a remedy that is peaceful and offers incentives for everyone involved. Choose peace over friction and you'll get better results. ★★★★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Over-spending or trying to do too much will make you fall behind. Remember what's important to you, and refuse to let anyone come between you and your dream. Rise above anger and frustration and let go of what's no longer working for you. ★★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Take nothing and no one for granted. Be willing to go the distance to please yourself and others. Changing how you earn your living or handle cash will ease stress and encourage you to share more with someone you love. ★★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are authentic, thoughtful and hardworking. You are friendly and generous.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12				13						14		
15				16						17		
				18				19		20		
21	22	23						24				
25				26		27		28			29	30
31			32		33		34		35			
36				37		38		39		40		
			41		42		43		44			
45	46						47					
48				49		50				51	52	53
54				55						56		
57				58						59		

### STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

8			4			7				
2				9	7	8				
4			8	5	1	2	6			
7	1								8	
9			5		8	1				
3		8		7	6			9	2	
5			3			7				
		3	7	1						4
1	7	2		8						9

Difficulty: ★ 4-3  
©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

### Friday's Answer

1	8	5	7	3	9	2	4	6
4	7	6	2	5	8	9	3	1
9	2	3	1	6	4	7	8	5
6	4	9	8	1	3	5	7	2
3	5	7	6	4	2	8	1	9
8	1	2	5	9	7	3	6	4
5	9	4	3	8	6	1	2	7
7	6	8	9	2	1	4	5	3
2	3	1	4	7	5	6	9	8

### WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

**REMEMBERING POPE JOHN PAUL II** Solution: 11 letters

H C R U H C R O W D S S F S B  
P I A U D I E N C E T A K P L  
T N S L O V E T O R I N R N E  
T S R H I T I T A T A A O F S  
L I E E O V E S H R Y V M U S  
A K G I T L I S I E O A U T E  
U S A R G S I R R T S I C H D  
G Y Z A R P E N T E S T I C E R  
N E E C O L W W E U V C S O O  
I B A H A L O A T S S A O L D  
L O S P E K J O L D S N J O Z  
I I A V A T T O A L E C O G I  
B P A R K S Y E Z A N I U I N  
E R K L A T I F E I T R S K  
T S E M I N A R Y H F Y N T A

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Arts, Audience, Bilingual, Bishop, Blessed, Church, Crowds, Doctorate, Faiths, Fine, Gaze, Heal, His Holiness, Humor, Karol Jozef, Krakow, Lead, Life, Love, Obsess, Olga, Papal, Parks, Prayer, Priest, Ranks, Rodzinka, Seminary, Sojourn, Talk, Theologian, Thesis, Totus Tuus, Tour, Travel, Vatican City, Verse, Virtus, Visits, Wall, Western, Wojtyla

**Last Friday's Answer: Elegant**

The NEW Volume 70 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.



# Butler's buzzer-beater sends San Diego State to title game



**HOUSTON** (AP)—San Diego State's vaunted defense staggered well into the second half as free-flowing Florida Atlantic breezed to a 14-point lead.

The Aztecs found their teeth again to get back into the game. Then Lamont Butler delivered at the very end.

Butler hit a buzzer-beating jumper for the ages, sending San Diego State to its first national championship game with a 72-71 win over fellow mid-major Florida Atlantic in the Final Four on Saturday night.

"I didn't really know how big it was," Butler said after his calm reaction to one of the greatest shots in NCAA Tournament history. "We're going to the national championship. That's not things many people do."

A diabolical defense had pushed San Diego State (32-6) all the way to the final stop for the NCAA tourney. The Aztecs bumped and harassed opponents all season to create the first all-mid-major national semifinal since VCU and Butler in 2011.

The swaggy Owls (35-4) seemed to have solved San Diego State's vaunted defense, using constant movement and ball reversals to create mismatches they could exploit.

San Diego State found its defensive mojo midway through the second half, clamping down on the Owls while whittling their lead down to one on Jaedon LeDee's short jumper with 36 seconds left.

Butler's winning buzzer-beater was the first for the Final Four since Jalen Suggs for Gonzaga against UCLA in 2021 and No. 5 overall. But it's the only one when the winning team was trailing at



San Diego State guard Lamont Butler, center, celebrates with teammates after he hit the winning basket against Florida Atlantic during the second half of a Final Four college basketball game in the NCAA Tournament on Saturday, April 1, 2023, in Houston.

When FAU's Johnell Davis missed a contested layup, San Diego State coach Brian Dutcher opted to not call timeout, joking that he didn't have any plays left.

All he had to do was get the ball to Butler.

The clock ticking down, Butler dribbled to the baseline, found that cut off and circled back. He stepped back to create a little room and hit a jumper that sent the Aztecs racing out onto the floor and had San Diego Padres fans going wild at Petco Park.

Butler's winning buzzer-beater was the first for the Final Four since Jalen Suggs for Gonzaga against UCLA in 2021 and No. 5 overall. But it's the only one when the winning team was trailing at

the time of the shot.

Next up for the Mountain West's first Final Four team is a chance to win the conference's first national title Monday night against UConn or Miami.

"We've always been knocked down," said San Diego State's Matt Bradley, who had 21 points after struggling in the previous three games. "But the biggest thing we always do is get back up and keep fighting."

San Diego State had been building toward this since coach Brian Dutcher took over for his longtime mentor Steve Fisher. Dutcher followed the mold Fisher had created, adding an extra dose of nasty to the defense.

The Aztecs lost an opportunity when they were in po-

sition for a No. 1 seed in the 2020 NCAA Tournament, only to have it wiped out by the pandemic.

San Diego State followed a pair of NCAA Tournament first-round flameouts with a solid 2023 season, winning 27 games to earn a No. 5 seed in the East Region in this year's bracket.

Once the NCAA Tournament started, the Aztecs ramped up their defense even more, holding their first four opponents to an average of 57 points per game and 17% shooting from the 3-point arc.

FAU found an answer through quick ball movement, with the occasional dump into the post to keep the Aztecs honest.

The result: The Owls led on Saturday night.

Jonas Valanciunas had 23 points and 12 rebounds for New Orleans (40-38), which won for the seventh time in eight games and pulled within a half-game of the Clippers (41-38) for sixth place in the Western Conference.

Los Angeles lost its second straight despite getting 40 points from Kawhi Leonard, who played 41 minutes in New Orleans after being restricted to 18 minutes during a loss at Memphis a night earlier so that he'd be more available against the hotly pursuing Pelicans.

CJ McCollum and Trey Murphy III each added 19 points for New Orleans, which trailed for most of the first three quarters but maintained a slim lead throughout the fourth.

Russell Westbrook had 24 points and nine assists for the Clippers. Ivica Zubac added 15 points and Norman Powell 12 for Los Angeles.

40-33 at halftime after hitting 5 of 11 from 3-point range against a defense that held its previous two NCAA Tournament opponents to 5-of-44 shooting from the arc.

FAU kept making shots, stretching the lead to 14 midway through the second half.

Then, with Fisher watching in the stands, the Aztecs got gritty.

Contesting nearly every shot and pass while pulling down a string of offensive rebounds, including six in 59 seconds, San Diego State rallied to tie it at 65-all.

"They went on a run, getting extra possessions," said FAU's Nick Boyd, who hit three early 3s and finished with 12 points. "That was really the turning point of the game."

FAU kept San Diego State at bay most of the second half thanks to Alijah Martin, who seemed to have an answer for every Aztecs move by scoring 19 of his 26 points in the second half.

He hit a reverse layup with 45 seconds left to put FAU up 71-68, but wasn't enough to prevent the Owls' improbable run from coming to an end.

"These guys have created memories and a legacy that will last a lifetime," FAU coach Dusty May.

So did the Aztecs—with one more chance to add to it.

## UConn 72, Miami 59

**HOUSTON** (AP)—UConn doled out another drama-free basketball beatdown Saturday, getting 21 points and 10 rebounds from Adama Sanogo to dispatch Miami 72-59 and move one win from the school's fifth national title.

Jordan Hawkins overcame his stomach bug and scored 13 for the Huskies, who came into this most unexpected Final Four as the only team with any experience on college basketball's final weekend and with the best seeding of the four teams in Houston—at No. 4.

Against fifth-seeded Miami, they were the best team on the court from beginning to end. Starting with three straight 3s—one jumper from Hawkins and two set shots from Sanogo—UConn took a quick 9-0 lead and never trailed.

On Monday in the title game, the Huskies will face San Diego State, which became the first team to hit a buzzer-beater while trailing in a Final Four game for a 72-71 victory over Florida Atlantic.

"They're one of the best teams in the country," UConn coach Dan Hurley said. "And I think it's fitting that both of us kind of earned our way into this title game."

But while the early game

was an all-timer, the nightcap was simply more of the same from the Huskies (30-8).

The semifinal victory was UConn's closest win in five tournament games, and it became only the sixth team since the tournament expanded to 64 teams in 1985 to reach the title game after winning its first five in the tournament by double digits. It's an impressive list with a daunting epilogue: Four of the previous five teams won the championship.

Some thought Miami (29-8), with four players who have scored 20 points at least three times this season, might be the team to slow this Huskies steamroller. Not to be.

Isaiah Wong led the 'Canes with 15 points on 4-for-10 shooting. Harassed constantly by Sanogo, 7-foot-2 Donovan Clingan and the rest of Connecticut's long-armed, rangy perimeter players, Miami, which came in with the nation's fifth-best offense, shot 25% in the first half and 33.3% for the game.

UConn did enjoy its own sort of buzzer-beater. It was a 3 from Alex Karaban that sent the Huskies jogging into the locker room with a 13-point halftime lead.

They built it to 20 before the first TV timeout of the second half. By then, Jim Nantz, calling his last Final Four, could start saving his voice for Monday.

Miami did get it under double digits a few times, but this never got interesting.

Not helping: Hurricanes guard Nijel Pack missed about five minutes after managers had trouble locating a substitute for a malfunctioning shoe. Pack finished with eight in this one, and Jordan Miller, who hit all 20 shots he took from the floor and the line in Miami's Elite Eight win, went 4 for 10 for 11 points. Only one Miami player made more than half his shots.

"I'm a defensive guy first and foremost," Hurley said. "I just love the way we guarded them. They're one of the best offenses in the country, and we really disrupted them."

UConn had five blocks, including two from Sanogo, and 19 assists, led by eight from Tristen Newton — both signs of the sort of all-around effort the Huskies have been putting in since the start of February, after a six-loss-in-eight-games stretch halted their momentum.

That cold stretch is a big reason they were seeded only fourth for March. Now, it's April and the number UConn is thinking about is "5"—as in a fifth title that will come if it can keep this up for one more game.

## Butler has 35, Miami gets needed win over Dallas, 129-122



**MIAMI** (AP)—Miami was desperate. So was Dallas.

Jimmy Butler and the Heat had just enough to help their playoff position—while dealing the Mavericks a big blow.

Butler had 35 points and 12 assists, Cody Zeller added 20 points and the Heat held off the Mavericks 129-122 on Saturday night to snap a three-game losing streak.

Max Strus and Kevin Love each scored 18 and Tyler Herro added 15 for the Heat. Miami won despite allowing Dallas to shoot a season-best 61%.

"I wouldn't necessarily have drawn it up this way," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

Luka Doncic was brilliant again for Dallas, finishing with 42 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists. Tim Hardaway Jr. had 31 points and Kyrie Irving added 23 points and eight assists for the Mavericks.

"A win is a win," Butler

said. "I don't like the fact that they shot 61%. But I do like the fact that we finally won a game."

The Mavs had been 7-0 this season when shooting at least 54%, and fell to 30-2 all-time, including playoffs, in games where they shot at least 60%.

"Our defense was nonexistent," Dallas coach Jason Kidd said. "Couldn't get stops."

Both clubs went to the conference finals last season; the Heat are trying to get out of the play-in round, and the Mavericks are trying to just have a shot at the playoffs.

The win moves Miami (41-37) closer to securing no worse than the No. 7 seed and most advantageous spot in the Eastern Conference play-in tournament. The Heat are now 2 1/2 games ahead of both No. 8 Atlanta (38-39) and No. 9 Toronto (also 38-39).

Miami moved within 1 1/2 games of No. 6 Brooklyn (42-35). Even if the Heat win out and finish with 45 wins, the

Nets—who hold the head-to-head tiebreaker—would only need to go 3-2 in their final five games to ensure they would finish ahead of Miami.

Meanwhile, it's a big blow to Dallas (37-41).

The Mavs fell a full game back of No. 10 Oklahoma City (38-40) in the race for the last Western Conference play-in spot, and worse, the Thunder own the head-to-head tiebreaker. Dallas is now two games back of No. 9 Minnesota (39-39) and just a half-game ahead of No. 12 Utah (36-41).

"Just got to play hard, play with desperation and anything can happen," Hardaway said. "Anything can happen."

## Pelicans 122, Clippers 114

**NEW ORLEANS** (AP)—Brandon Ingram scored 36 points, bringing fans to their feet with an array of clutch, mid-range jump shots, and the New Orleans Pelicans beat the Los Angeles Clippers 122-114



# Red Sox capitalize on error, Duvall hits walk-off homer



**BOSTON**  
(AP) —

Adam Duvall ended the game with his second two-run homer after left fielder Ryan McKenna dropped a two-out fly in the ninth inning, giving the Boston Red Sox a 9-8 win over the Baltimore Orioles on Saturday.

Duvall had four hits and five RBIs. He was a single shy of the cycle.

Baltimore stole five bases and became the first team to steal 10 in its first two games since at least 1901. Jorge Mateo swiped two.

Cedric Mullins hit a three-run homer, Ryan Mountcastle had a two-run shot and the Orioles tagged Chris Sale for seven runs over three innings in his first Fenway Park start since 2021.

Baltimore led 8-7 when McKenna dropped Masataka Yoshida's routine fly. Duvall lined a shot just over the Green Monster against Félix Bautista (0-1).

Austin Hays went 5 for 5 with a solo shot for the Orioles, who won Thursday's opener 10-9 after opening a six-run lead.

Rafael Devers had three hits and Alex Verdugo launched a two-homer homer for the Red Sox. Kenley Jansen (1-0) got the win.

## RANGERS 16, PHILLIES 3

**ARLINGTON, Texas** (AP)—Marcus Semien led off with a homer, Mitch Garver hit two and Texas powered past Philadelphia to become the seventh team since 1900 to start a season by scoring 10 or more runs in consecutive games.

Garver ripped a three-run shot off Phillies reliever Yunior Marte to extend the lead to 7-3 in the fifth inning. Garver then sparked a six-run seventh with another three-run shot, this time off Seranthony Dominguez.

The Rangers followed their 11-7 victory in the season opener by tying three other teams with 27 runs in two games, second-most since 1900. The 1951 White Sox scored 30.

Nathan Eovaldi (1-0) won his Texas debut, beating Zack Wheeler (0-1).

## BREWERS 3, CUBS 1

**CHICAGO** (AP)—William Contreras hit a tiebreaking, two-run single in Milwaukee's three-run eighth inning, and the Brewers beat Chicago for their first win of the season.

Brandon Woodruff pitched six sharp innings for Milwaukee, and Devin Williams worked a rocky ninth for the save. Peter Strzelecki (1-0)



Boston Red Sox's Adam Duvall hits a two-run, walk-off home run in the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles, Saturday, April 1, 2023, in Boston.

threw a hitless inning.

Dansby Swanson had three more hits for the Cubs, and Ian Happ homered. Justin Steele struck out eight over six innings in cold, windy conditions at Wrigley Field. Javier Assad (0-1) took the loss.

## RAYS 12, TIGERS 2

**ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.** (AP)—Zach Eflin got off to a nice start after signing the largest free-agent contract in Tampa Bay history, pitching five strong innings in a 12-2 rout of Detroit.

Yandy Díaz and Wander Franco each had three hits and three RBIs for the Rays, who scored seven times in the third to ruin Spencer Turnbull's first outing for the Tigers since June 4, 2021.

Jose Siri and Josh Lowe each contributed a two-run double in the third off Turnbull (0-1), who allowed seven runs and eight hits over 2 1/3 innings in his return from Tommy John surgery.

Eflin (1-0) allowed one run and three hits after leaving NL champion Philadelphia for a \$40 million, three-year deal with the Rays. He yielded an RBI single to Miguel Cabrera, who moved ahead of Ichiro Suzuki for sole possession of 23rd place on the career hits list with 3,090.

## BRAVES 7, NATIONALS 1

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Matt Olson hit two of Atlanta's four homers, and Spencer Strider struck out nine in six scoreless innings against Washington.

Ronald Acuña Jr. and Olson began the game with back-to-back home runs, and Marcell Ozuna connected later off Josiah Gray (0-1), who allowed the most homers in the majors last season.

The Nationals managed just three hits off Strider (1-0), runner-up for NL Rookie of

the Year last season.

## TWINS 2, ROYALS 0

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** (AP)—Sonny Gray and four relievers combined on a four-hitter, and Minnesota blanked Kansas City to open with consecutive shutouts for the first time in franchise history.

Jose Miranda had an RBI single, and pinch-hitter Kyle Farmer added a sacrifice fly. Byron Buxton scored twice.

Gray (1-0) allowed three hits before Jorge Alcalá, Griffin Jax, Caleb Thielbar and Jorge López also held the Royals scoreless. López got his first save of the year.

Kansas City is 0 for 14 with runners in scoring position during its first two games.

In his Royals debut, Jordan Lyles (0-1) threw 5 1/3 innings and gave up two runs—one earned.

## ANGELS 13, ATHLETICS 1

**OAKLAND, Calif.** (AP)—Taylor Ward homered and drove in four runs, and Los Angeles scored 11 times in the third inning against Oakland to spoil Shintaro Fujinami's major league debut.

Shohei Ohtani had two hits and two RBIs. Gio Urshela, Jake Lamb and rookie catcher Logan O'Hoppe drove in two runs apiece to help the Angels avoid an 0-2 start for the second consecutive season.

Los Angeles starter Patrick Sandoval (1-0) gave up a home run to Ramón Laureano, but that was it. Tucker Davidson pitched four scoreless innings for his first big league save.

Fujinami (0-1) breezed through the first two innings, then fell apart. He gave up eight earned runs in 2 1/3 innings.

## ASTROS 6, WHITE SOX 4

**HOUSTON** (AP)—Kyle

Tucker hit a pair of run-scoring singles and Yordan Alvarez had three hits to lead Houston over Chicago.

Seby Zavala launched a two-run homer for the White Sox.

With the score 3-all in the seventh, Alvarez and José Abreu hit consecutive two-out singles off Joe Kelly (0-1) before Tucker greeted José Ruiz with a go-ahead single.

Ryne Stanek (1-0) worked 1 2/3 innings and Héctor Neris got four outs for his first save.

Alvarez and Abreu hit consecutive RBI singles for a 6-3 lead in the eighth.

## METS 6, MARLINS 2

**MIAMI** (AP)—Pete Alonso hit a go-ahead double, Tylor Megill struck out seven over five innings and New York beat Miami.

Megill (1-0) started in place of Justin Verlander, who went on the injured list with a strained upper back muscle hours before New York's win on opening day.

Mark Canha had three hits and two RBIs for the Mets, including a home run. He also scored three times.

Andrew Nardi (0-1) took the loss.

## REDS 6, PIRATES 2

**CINCINNATI** (AP)—Jake Fraley came off the bench to hit a three-run homer, Kevin Newman had a two-run shot against his former team and Cincinnati defeated Pittsburgh.

Jonathan India added a solo homer and Nick Lodolo overcame a challenging first inning as the Reds snapped an eight-losing streak to the Pirates that dated to last season, when both teams lost 100 games.

Fraley's second career pinch-hit homer came in the sixth off Chase De Jong.

Lodolo (1-0) needed 109 pitches to navigate five in-

nings. He permitted two runs and finished with nine strikeouts.

Rich Hill (0-1), who turned 43 in March, began his 19th season with his 12th major league team. He allowed three runs and three hits with seven strikeouts in five innings.

## GIANTS 7, YANKEES 5

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Camilo Doval retired Giancarlo Stanton on a game-ending double play with the bases loaded, and San Francisco hung on against New York.

Doval gave up Aaron Judge's RBI single in the ninth inning, the slugger's third hit, but earned his first save when Stanton hit a grounder to shortstop Brandon Crawford, who started a double play that withstood a video review.

There were four pitch clock violations, the most of any game in the first three days of the new rule. Two were by Doval in the ninth inning.

Anthony Volpe got his first two big league hits and became the first Yankees player to steal a base in each of his first two games since Fritz Maisel in 1913.

But the 21-year-old shortstop also had Thairo Estrada's RBI single carom off his glove as the Giants scored twice in the sixth for a 5-3 lead.

Joc Pederson homered for the Giants, and Crawford hit a two-run drive. Jakub Junis (1-0) won in relief of Alex Cobb.

Stanton homered for the Yankees, and reliever Michael King (0-1) lost in his return from a broken elbow last July 22.

## CARDINALS 4, BLUE JAYS 1

**ST. LOUIS** (AP)—Jack Flaherty overcame a career-high seven walks and a hit batter in throwing five no-hit innings, and St. Louis scored three unearned runs in the third on the way to beating Toronto for its first win this season.

Flaherty (1-0), bothered by shoulder issues that sidelined him most of last year, had only one clean inning but it was his final one. Ryan Helsley got five outs for his first save.

The Blue Jays finished with three hits after getting 16 singles among 19 hits, an opening-day club record, on Thursday.

A two-out throwing error by third baseman Matt Chapman led to the three unearned Cardinals runs in the third. Nolan Gorman had a two-run single.

Kevin Gausman (0-1) went six innings without allowing an earned run.

## GUARDIANS 2, MARLINS 0

**SEATTLE** (AP)—Aaron Civale pitched seven smooth

innings, and Josh Naylor and Andrés Giménez homered as the Cleveland Guardians beat the Seattle Mariners 2-0 on Saturday night.

Civale allowed only two hits and a walk with three strikeouts. The seven-inning stint matched his longest outing of last season.

Julio Rodríguez had both hits off Civale, and Tommy La Stella doubled for the Mariners.

Emmanuel Clase pitched the ninth for his first save, completing a crisp game that took just 2 hours, 4 minutes.

It was the third career start for Civale in Seattle, and his first win. In his previous two he was 0-2 with a 6.23 ERA and had given up four homers.

On a chilly night, pitching dominated. Mariners starter Logan Gilbert nearly matched Civale, striking out seven in six innings and allowing four hits.

Gilbert's only costly mistake came in the fourth, when Naylor hit Cleveland's first homer of the season.

## DODGERS 10, DIAMONDBACKS 1

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Trayce Thompson hit three home runs and become the first player to drive in eight or more runs in a season debut since the RBI became an official statistic in 1920, helping Clayton Kershaw and the Los Angeles Dodgers roll to a 10-1 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Saturday night.

Thompson hit a grand slam in his first at-bat of the season as the Dodgers beat Arizona for the 16th time in the last 22 meetings. J.D. Martinez added his first home run in a Dodgers uniform.

In the 12th matchup between left-handers Kershaw and Madison Bumgarner, the Los Angeles star came out on top with six strong innings. The previous 11 matchups came when Bumgarner was a member of the San Francisco Giants. Each pitchers' team has won six times in the meetings.

Kershaw (1-0) gave up one run on four hits with no walks and nine strikeouts in an efficient 76 pitches over his first start of 2023. Bumgarner (0-1) gave up five runs on four hits with four walks and two strikeouts in four innings (85 pitches).

Thompson's grand slam came in a five-run first inning for the Dodgers before he added a three-run shot in the fifth inning.

Christian Walker hit a home run for the Diamondbacks, the fifth of his career against Kershaw.



# Labausa, Sumagaysay dominate; Guam wins Marianas Cup

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER

The CNMI's Antonette Labausa and Guam's Jacinta Sumagaysay dominated their respective weight classes in the women's division, while the Guam team collectively won the Marianas Cup weightlifting competition held at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last March 25.

Guam collected 14 gold medals, while the CNMI had 10.

Labausa lifted heavier than teammate Riella Ichio in the 81-kg weight class for gold, with a new personal best of 100 kg in the clean & jerk. Her best snatch was 75 kg for a total weight of 175 kg.

For silver, Ichio won with a snatch of 70 kg and clean & jerk of 85 kg for a total weight of 155 kg.

Sumagaysay won gold in the 71-kg weight class with

a snatch of 81 kg and clean & jerk of 105 kg for a total weight of 186 kg. Second went to the CNMI's Anniegail Manuel with best snatch of 60 kg and best clean & jerk of 80 kg for a total weight lifted of 145 kg.

Guam's Erika Camacho won gold in the 49 kg weight class with a best snatch of 50 kg and clean & jerk of 75 kg for a total weight of 125 kg; teammate Chloe Santos also won gold in the 55-kg weight class with a snatch of 64 kg and clean & jerk of 74 kg for a total weight of 138 kg.

In the 64-kg weight class, Guam's Nissi Lujan earned Guam her first gold with a snatch of 48 kg and clean & jerk of 65 kg for a total weight of 113 kg.

In the 59-kg weight class, the CNMI's Cheyanne Manu-

el won gold with a best snatch of 63 kg and clean & jerk of 78 kg for a total weight of 141 kg. Teammate Pipit Ball earned silver with a snatch of 51 kg and clean & jerk of 70 kg for a total weight of 121 kg; and Guam's Marina Babauta took bronze with a snatch of 53 kg and clean & jerk of 68 kg to share a total weight of 121 kg.

In the youth/junior division—the youngest competitor—Guam's 8-year-old Mariah Lujan won gold in the 40-kg weight class with a best snatch of 14 kg and clean & jerk of 18 kg for a total weight of 32 kg.

Guam's Marina Babauta won Guam another gold in the 59-kg weight class with a snatch of 53 kg and clean & jerk of 68 kg for a total weight of 121 kg, while Nissi Lujan

won her second gold medal for Guam in the 64-kg weight class with a snatch of 48 kg and clean & jerk of 65 kg for a total weight of 113 kg.

Anniegail Manuel won gold in the 71-kg weight class with a snatch of 65 kg and clean & jerk of 80 kg for a total weight of 145 kg.

Labausa, who wasn't supposed to compete this time around, said that after much thought, she changed her mind because it's the first time Guam is competing against the CNMI and wanted to be a part of it.

She hit a new clean & jerk PB by 2 kg and said that it felt great. "It was not my best day but I was able to hit the goal that my coach set out for me, so I am happy about that," she said.

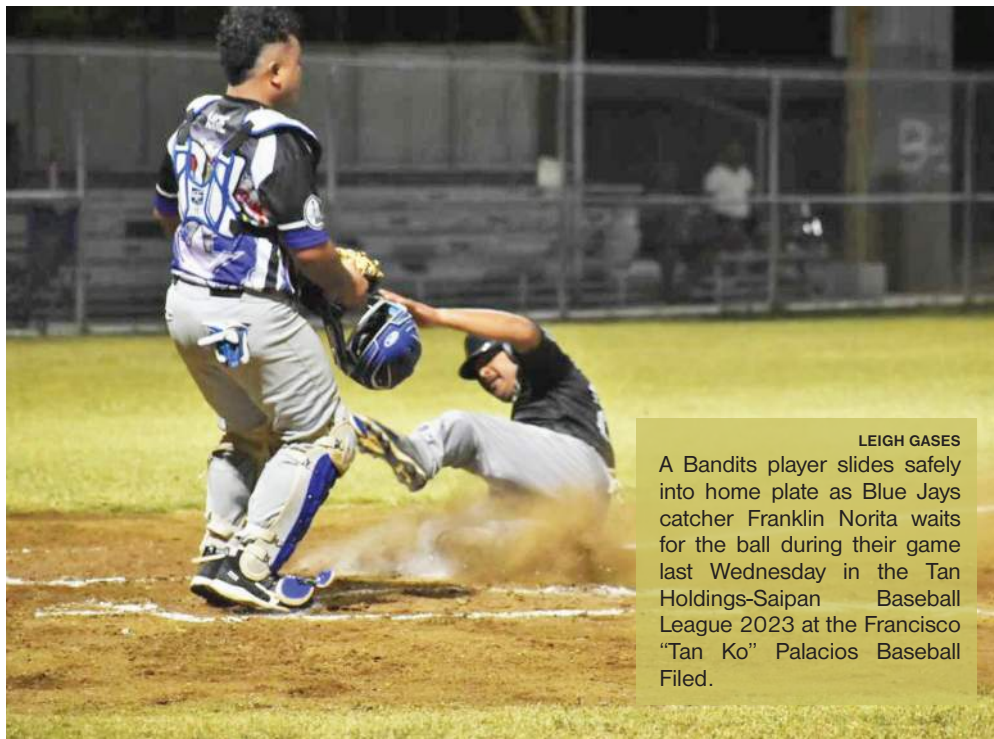
As for the postponement of the Micronesian Games, she said that she was relieved and now is solely preparing for the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Antonette Labausa, right, won a gold medal in the 81-kg weight class, while Riella Ichio took the silver in the Marianas Cup weightlifting competition last March 25 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

## Bandits, Falcons edge foes in baseball



LEIGH GASES

A Bandits player slides safely into home plate as Blue Jays catcher Franklin Norita waits for the ball during their game last Wednesday in the Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League 2023 at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER



The Bandits and Falcons have both earned their first win in the Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League 2023 season, with games played at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

The Bandits stole the W from the Blue Jays, 14-4, in

a mercy-run ruled game last Wednesday, while the Falcons triumphed over the SFC Survivors (formerly the Comets), 8-1, last Tuesday.

With a 1-2-3 outing of the Blue Jays lineup in the opening inning, the Bandits in turn made the Blue Jays' pitcher work. The Bandits' John Wilson hit a single then later stole second and third base. He eventually made it home on a passed ball by Blue Jays catcher Franklin Norita.

The Bandits' Wally Emul then hit a triple and brought in Ben Taisacan for a 2-0 game.

A run was scored by the Blue Jays' Kyle Foreman in the second for a one-run Bandits lead.

In the third inning, a wild pitch allowed the Bandits' Juan Iguel to reach home and multiple stolen bases by Emul and Tyrone Omar allowed them to reach scoring positions, for a 5-run inning.

The Bandits were silenced

in the third but came back to lengthen the lead in the fourth with seven runs scored. Taisacan and Emul were hit by pitches consecutively that put them on base, which the rest of the lineup capitalized on.

The Blue Jays now had a 13-run deficit and only mustered up three more runs in the last inning from a triple by Alvin Takai who brought in James Salalila.

In the Falcons-SFC Survivors game, multiple strikeouts were dealt from the hand of Falcons pitcher Alvin Hocog and the only run scored by the Survivors was in the first inning from a double by Luis Diaz.

It was a pitching duel as both offenses would come up empty until a run off a fielding error brought in Henry Aguon in the second for a tie ball game.

Then, the Falcons' top of the lineup delivered in the fifth inning as Giovanni Mica's single brought in M.J. Aldan and Ian Norita. Another hit by Jordan Suel brought Mica in for a 5-1 lead.

The Survivors still could not find the groove in their swings as they hit multiple groundouts and struck out 10 times.

The Falcons capitalized on the Survivors' nonexistent offense and brought in three runs in the last inning for the seven-run win.

MarPac and Budweiser and Tan Holdings—both celebrating 50 years of business and community contributions to the CNMI.

The derby was set for March 25, but due to inclement weather, the SFA decided to postpone it for a week to April 1.

Results of the side bet winner will be posted in the next issue of *Saipan Tribune*.

Pacific Games in November.

Sumagaysay, for her part, said that she set a new PB and that it was a great experience coming out to compete in the CNMI.

John Davis, president of the CNMI Weightlifting Federation, said in an email after the competition, "This was the first but hopefully not the last collegial test for the two

teams. Though they were a smaller visiting team, they were also more experienced. Nevertheless, the CNMI weightlifters gave them a run for the money. CNMI weightlifters are looking forward to turning the tables next year and bringing the Cup back to the CNMI. The focus of the CNMI team is now shifted to the Solomon Pacific Games."

## TANIA

From Page 20

only the season opener. She is only 2 minutes off from the male record. Expect great things this season from her!" said the SIS headmaster.

Northern Marianas Athletics president Ramon Tebureb said the federation is extremely proud of Tan's

consistent performance, especially her setting a new record.

"I express NMA's awesome thank you to her coaches and teammates. We look forward to her participation in the ranking Oceania Cup this June on Saipan. We encourage our community to come out and cheer her on along with our CNMI National Team in June."

## TEAM

From Page 20

UOG Tritons.

In what can be called an ugly and sluggish game, the MIBBC women defeated Team Marianas women, 51-50.

In the opening quarter, Team Marianas took an early lead, 8-0, as MIBBC would not score for the first seven minutes of the game, but MIBBC would have a spurt to close the first 10 minutes and Team Marianas would lead, 11-7, after one period. Both teams' offenses would open up in the second quarter as MIBBC outscored Team Marianas 20-16 in the second 10-minute period and the game would be tied at

halftime, 27-27.

The third period was back and forth with Team Marianas leading, 40-39, going into the final quarter. Team Marianas had a 5-point lead going into the final minutes, but MIBBC would surge past them to a 51-48 lead in the final seconds. Team Marianas had a chance to tie the game in the last few seconds, but missed a 3-point shot and scored a 2-pointer on the rebound, but MIBBC won the game 51-50.

Hope Kanemoto and Carrissa Eter led MIBBC with 13 points each, while Destiny Pangelinan led all scorers with 16 points for Team Marianas.

Team Marianas women's squad finished the Friendship Games with a match-up against the UOG Tritons yesterday starting at 2pm. (PR)

## 10-7

From Page 20

which turned out to be the biggest catch. With 15 years of fishing experience under his belt, he said they've also won the Saipan International Fishing Tournament in previous years.

"I want to thank the Saipan Fishermen's Association. Ev-

erything comes from God and I'm very blessed—not to catch this fish, but to fish with each and everyone here. That's the main [goal], it's to go out and have fun with each and everyone here," said Torres.

SFA president Tony Scragg said after the derby that 52 boats entered and it was a great turnout.

As for the postponement of the derby, he said "I think

the postponement definitely had a [good number] of participants. The water wasn't quite [for] small craft, but it was border, so we made the call to postpone it until we had calmer weather. And we had weather like we did today—so we got more participants. Everybody gets out there and gets a chance—big or small boat," he said.

Sponsors of the derby were





Butler's buzzer-beater sends San Diego State to title game  
**PAGE 17**

# Saipan Tribune Sports

Labausa, Sumagaysay dominate; Guam wins Marianas Cup  
**PAGE 19**



20 MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2023

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Tania resets own 10,000m record



NICOLETA PAPAVASILAKIS  
The CNMI's Tania Tan runs for Fordham University during the 57th Colonial Relays at William & Mary College in Williamsburg, Virginia.

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI's Tania Tan broke her own national record in the 10,000m yesterday in the 57th Colonial Relays at William & Mary College in Williamsburg, Virginia.

The 21-year-old Fordham University senior reset the CNMI record in the 10K run by completing the outdoor course in 38:27.06

That shaved more than a minute from the 39:41 she recorded in the same event in April last year in the Metropolitan Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

"I actually didn't hit the time I wanted but I literally ran the whole race alone from the third lap and a win is a win so I'll take it! It was also 1:20 off my PR so yay!" she told *Saipan Tribune* in a social media message.

The 2022 NMSA Female Athlete of the Year said she's just glad that she's able to top the race despite not reaching her target of running the 10,000m in under 38 minutes.

"I just hope to keep improving from here and continue to learn and grow as not only a runner and athlete but as a person as well. Hopefully I can also continue to break records, whether that be my

own personal ones or national ones," she said.

Asked what she thinks of the Micronesian Games Council having to postpone this year's quadrennial event in the Marshall Islands due to the facilities not being ready yet, Tan said it was a bit disappointing.

"I'm sad because they aren't ready to host it this year and have to postpone it."

CNMI national athletics coach Dr. Ron Snyder was ecstatic about the recent performance of the Saipan International School alumnae.

"Tania broke her own record by 1:20 minutes and it's

**See TANIA on Page 19**



# 10-7 hauls mightiest mahi

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

None was made a fool on a sun-splashed Saturday as the weather was finally calm enough to proceed with the 19th Annual Mahi Fishing Derby—with the boat *10-7* hauling the biggest catch at 26.2 lbs.

Captained by Keith O. Torres, the catch won him and fellow angler Ceejay Echalico \$2,500.

Second place for \$1,500 was the boat *Ka Fish On* with a 22.2-lb mahi captained by Manuel Mogar.

For \$1,000 at third place was the boat *Victoria* with a 22-lb haul captained by Diego Benavente.

Fourth place was the *Salty Bandits*' catch of 21.1 lbs for a

\$400 gift certificate from Fishing Tackle, gift bag from Budweiser, and a \$25 GC from Last Shot Bar.

Fifth place was the boat *Orion* with a 20.7-lb catch for a \$200 GC from Fishing Tackle, gift bag from Budweiser, and a \$25 GC from Last Shot Bar.

At just about 10 minutes into the derby, Torres said that their lure baited the mahi

**See 10-7 on Page 19**

LEIGH GASES  
Captain of the boat *10-7*, Keith O. Torres, holding plaque, won the first place prize of \$2,500 in the 19th Annual Mahi Fishing Derby with a 26.2-lb mahi last Saturday at the Smiling Cove Marina weighing station.



## Team Marianas falls to MIBBC in Guam

UOG  
Ervin Villarin led Team Marianas with 16 points in their loss to Micronesian Islands Ballers Basketball Club in the 2nd Annual Friendship Games last Saturday at the UOG Calvo Field House.

UOG  
Team Marianas' Destiny Pangelinan drives to the basket against Micronesian Islands Ballers Basketball Club in the 2nd Annual Friendship Games last Saturday at the UOG Calvo Field House.



GUAM—Both the men's and women's team of Team Marianas fell to Micronesian Islands Ballers Basketball Club in the 2nd Annual Friendship Games sponsored by Triton Athletics and Field House Department last Saturday at the UOG Calvo Field House.

The Team Marianas men took a 2-0 lead in their match-up with the MIBBC, but the team from the CNMI would not lead again, as MIBBC dominated play in the game, leading 25-14 at the end of

the first quarter and 48-25 at halftime.

MIBBC would push their lead to 30 points after the third period, 72-42 and follow with a final victory of 92-56.

Kirston Guzman led MIBBC with 18 points while Dean Weibacher

added 15 and Aunu Jerfick dropped 14. Ervin Villarin led Team Marianas with 16 points.

Team Marianas finished its Friendship Games assignment with a 4pm match-up yesterday with the

**See TEAM on Page 19**

